

Israeli troops kill 'guerrilla' on border

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops at the northern border with Jordan on Tuesday shot dead a man who earlier fired on an Israeli army patrol, wounding one soldier, Israeli security sources said. "They killed the terrorist near a bridge at the border after searches," one security source said. The guerrilla had shot and wounded an Israeli soldier before he was killed, the sources said. Israel radio said troops initiated search between the border fence and the Jordan River after shots were fired from Jordan at an Israeli army patrol, wounding one soldier in the leg. It said the Israeli troops shot dead a man dressed in civilian clothes and armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed a soldier had been wounded and a "terrorist" was killed. She said a joint investigation into the incident would be conducted by Jordanian and Israeli officers.

Jordan Times

An independent English-language newspaper of Arab politics and culture published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تأسست يومية سياسية

Central Bank governor Nabulsi resigns

AMMAN (R) — Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi has tendered his resignation effective Jan. 1, 1996, officials said Tuesday. Mr. Nabulsi, whose present five-year term began in 1994, has held the post since 1973 with only a break in 1985-1989 when he headed the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Mr. Nabulsi has submitted resignations several times in recent years, but they were not accepted, officials said. They said it was not clear what the reaction was at the time or why he wished to quit, although he has been criticised by parliamentarians seeking to tighten control on the Central Bank. Bankers credited Mr. Nabulsi with a tight monetary policy that has preserved the dinar's stability and controlled inflationary pressures, returning the banking system to its feet after an economic crisis in 1989. "Nabulsi built Jordan's foreign reserves from zero in 1989 with reforms that have overhauled banking inspection and raised their efficiency and encouraged mergers to create a stronger banking sector," one banker said.

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Bosnian rivals seal historic peace deal

Accord calls for Muslim-Croat federation and separate Serb entity, envisages united Sarajevo and effective central government

DAYTON, Ohio (Agencies) — Bosnian rivals finally agreed to a U.S.-sponsored peace plan on Tuesday in dramatic down-to-the-wire negotiations that were haunted by the threat of failure up to the last moment.

President Bill Clinton said the plan, which was scheduled to be finalised at 3 p.m. EST (2000 GMT), envisages a united Sarajevo, an effective central-Bosnian government with a freely elected president and parliament, the return of refugees to their homes and a ban on charged war criminals from participating in public office.

Mr. Clinton said the people of Bosnia finally have a chance to turn from the horrors of war to the promise of peace. The presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia have made a historic and heroic choice.

"They have heeded the will of their people."

The plan calls for Bosnia to be preserved as a single state divided into two republics, a Muslim-Croat federation and separate Serb entity, with an almost equal distribution of land between the two.

Two senior Bosnian government delegation members told Reuters that the deal did not come easily after yet another U.S. deadline for the talks to end expired at 11:30 p.m. on Monday (0430 GMT Tuesday).

At one point, Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhammed Sacirbey said the talks had collapsed. But his claims

could not be confirmed at the time by the two other delegations and the U.S. mediators.

The dramatic breakthrough came after the Americans laid down the final draft on the table regarding major territorial issues which Serbia and Croatia agreed to sign leaving only the Bosnian delegation reluctant to go along with the deal.

"The parties were due to respond to the draft by 11:30 p.m. and there were still some problems when the deadline passed and that is probably why Sacirbey called the meeting," the source said.

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The officials said the issue of the Port of Brcko, providing the government with an access to the River Sava in northern Bosnia, was settled.

The Serbs will lease the port facilities for the next 99 years, the officials said.

The parliament, instead of one house as initially proposed, will have two houses, on Croat insistence, they said.

But pressure built up over the night on the Bosniacs to sign because both Croatia and Serbia had agreed.

A couple members of the U.S. delegation worked through the night and this morning Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

"They were able to resolve the remaining differences," the official said.

In his speech announcing the deal, the president appealed to the American people and members of Congress to support the deployment of an estimated 20,000 U.S. troops to implement peace in the region.

"The parties have chosen peace. Americans must choose peace as well," he said.

Diplomats said the German and U.S. ambassadors

(Continued from page 7)

Mr. Clinton was facing opposition by the

Peres announces cabinet, retains defence portfolio

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — On his way to forming a new government, Prime Minister Shimon Peres signed coalition agreements with two smaller parties and named the members of his new cabinet Tuesday.

Mr. Peres said he moved quickly in order to assure a smooth transition after the Nov. 4 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which has left the nation reeling.

"Our plan was to establish a government at the earliest opportunity in order not to leave a crisis situation in the country," Mr. Peres said after signing the coalition agreements.

Tuesday evening, Mr. Peres named the members of his new cabinet, which was similar to the outgoing one with Mr. Peres, like Mr. Rabin, holding the defence portfolio in addition to the top job.

In a major change, Interior Minister Ehud Barak, a popular and articulate former army chief, was named foreign minister.

"We will stand together as one to advance Israel, advance peace, strengthen security and go forward with our heads raised," Mr. Peres told Labour Party members gathered in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Peres said he would present his new government to parliament on Wednesday for what was expected to be easy approval. Several opposition parties have said they would abstain in the vote in order to demonstrate unity after Mr. Rabin's killing.

Mr. Peres formed the same coalition that was in power at the time of Rabin's death. It consists of Mr. Peres' Labour Party, the dovish Meretz bloc and the small Yeud faction, a breakaway of the right-wing Tzomet Party.

Labour controls 44 seats in

the 120-member parliament. Meretz has 12 and Yeud two, for a total of 58. Five Arab legislators support the coalition "from outside," guaranteeing a 63-57 vote on most issues.

Mr. Peres has been trying to negotiate an understanding with the religious Shas Party which doesn't oppose his peace policies outright, but won't join the coalition.

In a nod to Shas and other religious factions, Mr. Peres signed a letter attached to the coalition agreements that said the government would observe the status quo on religious matters.

Meretz, which has campaigned against what it calls religious coercion in Israel, was given a veto right on religious legislation.

Following is the list of the new cabinet:

Prime Minister and Defence Minister — Shimon Peres (Labour, new)

Foreign Minister — Ehud Barak (Labour, new)

Interior Minister — Haim Ramon (Labour, new)

Minister at the prime minister's office — Yossi Beilin (Labour, new post)

Minister for Internal Security — Moshe Shahal (Labour, new post)

Finance Minister — Avraham Shohat (Labour, unchanged)

Justice Minister — David Libai (Labour, unchanged)

Trade and Industry Minister — Micha Harish (Labour, unchanged)

Health Minister — Ephraim Sneh (Labour, unchanged)

Housing and Construction Minister — Binyamin Ben Eliezer (Labour, unchanged)

Tourism Minister — Uzi Baram (Labour, unchanged)

Labour and Social Affairs Minister — Ora Namir (Labour, unchanged)

Agriculture Minister — Yaakov Tzur (Labour, unchanged)

(Continued from page 7)

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U.N. team disarming Iraq in need of funds

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — The U.N. team disarming Iraq needs \$30 million to fulfill its mission for another year or it will run out of funds early in 1996, its chairman said Tuesday as he sought support from Gulf states.

The United Nations Special Commission needs "up to \$30 million a year" to pay the salaries of its 150 staff members and maintain equipment, UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus told AFP.

If Gulf Arab states and other U.N. members do not offer financial support, the team risks running out of funds in "early 1996," Mr. Ekeus said before leaving Kuwait for Qatar.

"If we do not get the funds, we will have to close our work and that will be disastrous for the security in the region," Mr. Ekeus earlier told a press conference on Monday.

UNSCOM, which sends experts to Iraq to oversee the dismantling of its weapons of mass destruction, solved a cash crisis last year when frozen Iraqi assets were unblocked.

It now must rely on contributions from U.N. members, he said. "Iraq should pay for all the costs related to our work... but it appears that Iraq has no available funds because of the oil embargo."

Contributors might be reimbursed once the embargo is lifted, he added.

Mr. Ekeus said his tour would take him this week to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to seek "political support and hopefully also the necessary material support" for his mission.

"It is quite natural that they also assist," especially since large Western countries have provided much of the financial support," Mr. Ekeus said. "Both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been supportive," he added.

UNSCOM also relies on U.N. members for "in-kind" support such as equipment, services and technical personnel, he said.

There is no longer unanimous political support in the Gulf for maintaining economic sanctions until Iraq satisfies disarmament and other U.N. resolutions. The UAE is standing by its call last month for an immediate end to sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus said Tuesday he would return to Iraq next week to prepare his December report on Baghdad's disarmament for the U.N. Security Council, which will decide whether to lift the embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

But he did not sound optimistic about that happening. "Now, they say all the weapons were destroyed secretly as they were produced secretly," Mr. Ekeus said, referring to Iraqi officials. "However, we have no proof that these weapons have been destroyed," he said by telephone from the Gulf headquarters.

The multinational force has been checking shipping in the Gulf to enforce the U.N. trade embargo imposed on Iraq since 1990.

Iraq has complained to the United Nations that U.S.-flagged and British patrols violated its territorial waters.

Mr. McCreary said the force has diverted 26 vessels since October 1994, including the eleven, for contraband cargo.

Each of the eleven dhows has held between 100 to 400 tonnes of dates. "At \$500 a tonne the cargoes are worth more than oil in terms of price per tonne," said Mr. McCreary, who added the prices were supplied to him by shipping sources.

Some of the other 15 diverted vessels have held diesel, which Mr. McCreary said Iraq exported at \$150-\$200 per tonne.

"In that case, Iraq is still theoretically keeping a handful of such missiles," Mr. Ekeus said. "Iraq again declared they had been destroyed, but we are not convinced, so we will continue verifying."

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait, Iraq must destroy its nuclear, biological, chemical and longer-range ballistic weapons and hand over all details about them before the oil embargo can be lifted.

'Iraq using dhows to evade sanctions'

Meanwhile, a U.S. Navy spokesman said Iraq is suspected of using traditional

wooden trading boats in the Gulf to evade sanctions.

Commander T. McCreary said a U.N. interception force of ships from Belgium, the United States, Italy and New Zealand diverted 11 dhows in the past week suspected of exporting dates from Iraq.

"These are dhows, not ships. It's a new tactic we are seeing in an attempt to violate U.N. sanctions by sending smaller vessels and more of them," Mr. McCreary told Reuters.

"We believe they loaded their cargoes in Khor Al Zubair in Iraq and were exporting the foodstuffs in violation of U.N. sanctions," he said by telephone from the Gulf headquarters.

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Bahraini activists trained by Hezbollah in Lebanon

MANAMA (AFP) — Dozens of young Shiite Muslim activists from Bahrain are travelling every month to Lebanon for training in Iranian-backed Hezbollah camps, sources close to the opposition here said.

Official Bahraini newspapers earlier this year accused Hezbollah of being behind a wave of anti-government riots that left 12 people dead from December 1994 to April this year.

Although they could not confirm it, some sources close to the opposition said Hezbollah might have taught the activists how to make fire bombs with timing devices, which have begun to be used here only in recent months.

Diplomats added that the fire bombs were more sophisticated weapons than those used previously.

The activists who trained with Hezbollah were able to return to Bahrain without raising suspicion because they avoided getting their passports stamped when they crossed between Syria and Lebanon, the sources said. Several Bahraini opposi-

tion members are based in Damascus, including Abdulrahman Al Ghoraffi, a Shiite cleric exiled since 1988. Dozens of activists have been travelling to Syria through Saudi Arabia, they said.

In January, Bahrain denounced Lebanon's "inaction" toward the "hostile activities" of Bahraini opponents who took up exile in Beirut after they were expelled in 1981.

Hezbollah, linked closely to Iran, established itself in Lebanon when Iran's revolutionary guard arrived in the country in 1982. Bahrain has several times issued veiled accusations of Iranian influence in the riots.

Bahrain's defence minister, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Ahmad Al Khalifa, said on Nov. 12 that "Iran is the main source of danger" for the Gulf, although he did not implicate Tehran directly in the unrest.

Manama has never handed over the "concrete proof" of foreign involvement in the riots that it claims to have obtained.

One arrested after Cyprus blast

"The authorities feel that Iran wants to destabilise Bahrain, a potential centre of unrest because most of its people are Shiite, but has carefully avoided naming their powerful neighbour," an Arab diplomat said.

Shiite opposition leaders insist there is no link between foreign countries and the protests which are against unemployment and the suspension of parliament in Bahrain.

"During interrogation, the authorities never had the courage to accuse us of having intelligence links with Tehran," according to a Shiite opposition leader who was released from prison in September.

Since the Iranian revolution in 1979, several Bahraini opposition groups set up office in Iran where young Bahraini students still travel to for theological studies.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain was set up in Tehran in 1976. Its leaders have been in prison or exile since a "plot" was exposed in December 1981.

Police spokesman Savvas Antoniades said the man's body was thrown out of the apartment from the impact of the explosion to the road below. A state pathologist said the victim was blown to pieces.

The husband-wife team of



COALITION GOVERNMENT: Acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres hands over his pen to Minister of Environment Yossi Sarid for him to sign the coalition agreement with left-wing parties to form his new government tuesday (AFP photo)

Kuwait special court to try former minister on graft

KUWAIT (R) — A court on

Tuesday sent a former Kuwaiti oil minister charged with making illegal profits for trial by a special court for cases involving ministers, but ordered four other accused tried by an ordinary criminal court.

Criminal court judge Ahmad Mahfouz referred the case against Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, the most prominent member of the ruling Sabah family to stand trial on criminal charges, to the special court.

He added his court would try four other defendants accused of corruption in their work for Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) and set an opening session for the four Dec. 26.

Mr. Mahfouz set no date for proceedings against Sheikh Ali, the architect of Kuwait's oil industry and the only former minister to have been prosecuted for offences related to his duties.

Prosecutors accuse Sheikh Ali and four other oil executives of making illegal

profits from operations of state-owned KOTC.

The four — former KOTC Chairman Abdul Fattah Al Badr, a Kuwaiti, former deputy chairman for financial affairs Hassan Qabazard, also a Kuwaiti, and former KOTC officials Timothy Stanford, a Briton, and Nassim Molsen, a Jordanian — face four other charges of embezzlement and forging documents.

Sheikh Ali has denied the charges. Mr. Qabazard, the only other of the accused to turn up for trial, has denied embezzlement.

But Mr. Qabazard has told the trial he acquired money from KOTC operations on the instructions from his superior, Mr. Badr. Mr. Qabazard is free on bail in Kuwait.

The other three defendants are living abroad. None has returned to Kuwait to face trial or commented on the charges.

Lawyers said it was not immediately clear what procedures would govern Sheikh

Ali's trial, but they added it appeared his case would be heard by a special court as stipulated by a 1990 law regulating ministers' trials.

Opposition MPs have argued the strict procedures required under the 1990 law would make it hard to obtain convictions.

The 1995 amendment set new court rules that lawyers say improves the chance of obtaining convictions. Sheikh Ali's lawyers have argued the 1990 rules should apply.

KOTC lawyer Nasser Shaalan said the company did not mind what court tried Sheikh Ali as long as the money KOTC had lost was returned. Mr. Shaalan said the case involved financial losses of about \$121 million and unquantified "non-financial" losses.

"We have no problem where he goes. We trust the law here in Kuwait," he told reporters. "Our main concern is to obtain the amounts embezzled."

Ancient Syrian city discovered

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A team of California anthropologists have uncovered the ancient city of Urkesh in Syria, a political and religious hub 4,000 years ago and the home of a mythical god.

Urkesh was found after nearly eight years of excavating the modern Syrian city of Tell Mozan by Giorgio Buccellati of the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati of California State University.

The identification of Urkesh is analogous to knowing that Rome is in central Italy and then finding Rome," said Mr. Buccellati, professor of the ancient Near East and history at UCLA.

Police said the bomb exploded before midnight, killing a 26-year-old Cypriot. The owner of the apartment, a friend of the victim, was arrested five hours later.

Police spokesman Savvas Antoniades said the man's body was thrown out of the apartment from the impact of the explosion to the road below. A state pathologist said the victim was blown to pieces.

The husband-wife team of

archaeologists, established that Urkesh was a vibrant city at least three centuries earlier than scholars believed, and a more important city than had been realised.

Prior to these findings, scholars knew of Urkesh kings from centuries later, but did not know where Urkesh was, or how important it was, the team said.

They presented their findings Monday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the annual meeting of the American School of Oriental Research.

The Hurrians lived in a part of the desert across what is now southeast Turkey and northeast Syria and spread toward the centre of what is modern-day Syria and west into Turkey.

The two archaeologists had been scouring the area since 1983 looking for Urkesh, finding shards of pottery and parts of buildings but nothing that named the site as Urkesh.

Then they found what appeared to be a warehouse where 600 artifacts were strewn across a floor, including stone cylinders with art and words carved into the sides.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death toll in Saudi bomb rises to 7

RIYADH (AP) — The death toll from a bomb which destroyed a U.S.-run military building rose to seven Tuesday with the death of an Indian man, the Indian embassy said. The man, whose name was given only as Balakrishnan, was the second Indian to die from the Nov. 13 bomb explosion. Mr. Balakrishnan worked as a cook with the Arabian Food Supplies Co. that caters to the American military training facility. Five Americans died in the blast and the U.S. embassy said 11 wounded Americans remained in hospital, including one on the critical list.

Pollard granted Israeli citizenship

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Reversing himself, Israel's interior minister decided Tuesday to grant Israeli citizenship to Jonathan Pollard who is serving a life prison term in the United States for spying for Israel. Mr. Pollard, who is Jewish, was arrested in 1985. He has sought to win Israeli citizenship in hopes of improving his chances at a January parole hearing. Mr. Pollard made the request for citizenship earlier this year, but was turned down by the interior ministry which said that Israel normally does not grant citizenship to Jews until they immigrate. The case went to the supreme court which ruled Oct. 25 that the government had 30 days to explain its decision. Instead of appearing before the high court, Interior Minister Ehud Barak decided Tuesday to grant Mr. Pollard citizenship. Mr. Barak said in a statement that he made the decision after consulting with ministry legal advisers. Mr. Barak also said that "Israel will continue, as it has done in the past, to work on behalf of Jonathan Pollard."

Palestinians arrest alleged killers

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police have arrested the suspected killers of two leaders of the militant Islamic Jihad, a spokesman said here. The intelligence services have arrested in the past days the murderers of Hani Abed and Mahmud al Khawaja. Colonel Mohammad Al Masri said in a television interview late Monday, adding they would soon appear in court. He did not say how many had been arrested. Mr. Abed was killed in a November 1994 when his car blew up in a boobytrap in Khan Younis in the south of the self-rule Gaza Strip, and Mahmud al Khawaja was shot dead in July in the Shati refugee camp near Gaza City by masked men. The Islamic Jihad, which has carried out several bloody anti-Israeli attacks, blamed both murders on Palestinians working for the Israeli secret services. The group accused Israeli agents of killing its leader Fathi Shqaq in Malta last month.

Earthquakes shake western Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — People ran from their homes into the streets when an earthquake shook the western Algerian town of Sidi Bel Abbes on Tuesday morning, state radio said. The quake rocked buildings in Sidi Bel Abbes and a big explosion was heard afterwards, the radio said. The Algerian news agency APS said the quake measured four on the Richter scale and that it caused no damage. It gave no further details on the explosion. A moderate earthquake also rocked the western city of Oran. The quake measured four on the Richter scale, APS said, after saying earlier the intensity was 3.4. The quake, centred in downtown Oran, caused no casualties or damage. "This weak earthquake did not cause any substantial losses," Algerian radio said.

Men banned from fashion shows

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's Islamic Affairs Ministry on Tuesday banned men from women's fashion shows and ordered models to cover themselves from their navels to their knees. The decree was issued after Kuwait's first fashion designer Nejoud Budai, 23, last month staged a show here where models wore miniskirts and see-through blouses before a crowd that included several men. "These shows must be held in areas reserved exclusively for women," according to the decree (or fatwa) from the ministry, which was carried by the official KUNA news agency. "The models' clothes must hide the parts of the body between the navel and the knees, which are not allowed to be seen by other women. These clothes must be those which the Sharia (Islamic law) allows (women) to wear." The fatwa also allows women to work as models provided that photographs of their shows are not published in magazines or broadcast on television "because of their seductive effect."

Strong earthquake hits southern Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake powerful enough to cause heavy damage in populated areas hit Iran's southwest Fars province Tuesday but there were no immediate reports of casualties, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It said the "relatively strong" earthquake, which measured 4.8 on the Richter scale, shook Mamasani and Kazeroun cities at 0550 local (0220 GMT) and "frightened the residents of the two cities." The epicentre was recorded at 60 kilometres west of Shiraz, capital of the province. IRNA said a team of experts was sent to the region for damage assessment.

UAE, India hold naval exercise

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — India and the United Arab Emirates staged an unprecedented joint naval exercise in the Gulf waters Tuesday. Rear Admiral John de Silva, the flag officer commanding the Indian naval group, said three Indian warships participated in the daylong games with two vessels from the United Arab Emirates. The Indian ships, supported by a submarine which did not participate in the manoeuvres, were on a goodwill mission to build closer ties with the UAE, Adm. de Silva told the Associated Press.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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Princess Basma praises former members of JNCW, sees brighter future ahead

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday voiced her appreciation and gratitude to the former members of the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW) for their efforts during the establishment period of the committee in 1992 and the committee's preparation of the national strategy for women.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the announcement of the new setup of the JNCW, the Princess said that the former committee has accomplished major achievements in the three years following the committee's establishment.

The re-formation of the committee came at the end of the mandate of the former committee and for the purpose of enlarging its membership so that it includes all the government departments and non-governmental organisations in addition to a number of specialists in areas that have direct contact with Jordanian women's needs in the next stage.

The new committee will undertake to work out a new working plan that takes into consideration the contents of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, the Princess said. The working plan will be prepared in light of the priorities included in the national strategy for women, Princess Basma said.

According to Princess Basma, the JNCW's attention in the next stage will focus on increasing the participation of women in political and economic fields and on the status of women vis-a-vis Jordanian laws and efforts to be made to secure amendments to the existing legislation in a manner that would enhance women's status and increase women's participation in the political and economic life and stimulate their role in the develop-



ment process.

The Princess said that women's committees in the governorates which constitute the executive arm for the implementation of the national strategy have played an important role in the latest municipal elections which resulted in the election of 10 women to local councils for the first time in Jordan's history.

These committees have organised numerous programmes to spread awareness in the local communities about women's role and the need for their participation in public life alongside men on the basis of Jordanian principles, values and traditions, Princess Basma pointed out.

Princess Basma said that many specialists involved in these committees' work, including the legal committee, which was created by the JNCW, conducted a survey of Jordanian legislations and presented proposals for the required amendments to laws with a view to creating greater chances for women to be involved and incorporated in the development process in all its aspects. The Princess expressed her satisfaction with the cooperation between the JNCW and parliament noting that meetings by women committees and deputies in the governorates have laid the foundation for solid cooperation in the future and for their role in the develop-

opening continuous dialogue of Jordanian women's issues and needs. Princess Basma pointed out that the new JNCW includes the chairman of the legal committee of the Lower House of Parliament.

Princess Basma stressed that the five years separating Jordan from the 21st century require a great deal of work and effort if major achievements and the implementation of the national strategy are to be accomplished. She added that the strategy provides for a solid base for a more advanced and more progressive future.

The Princess, who is JNCW president, praised the awareness of Jordanian women and their potential which she said enables them to look with confidence and hope to the future.

She said Jordanian women are true to their human role first and to their role as Jordanian citizens second, and that they recognise they have rights and duties towards themselves, their families and their nation.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday approved Princess Basma's recommendation of the new set up of the JNCW to group the following: the ministers of planning, justice and social development, Abdul Karim Dughmi, the secretaries general of the ministries of labour, municipal and rural affairs, and the interior, as well as a representative of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, Shadiyah Nuseir from the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, Amal Farhan from the academic sector, Fatihah Kabariti from the private sector, May Abul Samen from the women committees in the governorates, Nawal Faouri, Muyassar Sa'adi and Hiyam Kalamat.

Prime minister: Jordan supports regional agricultural integration

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday said Jordan supported the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in its effort to ensure inter-Arab agricultural integration and guarantee food security for the Arab World.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with members of the AOAD's executive board who are holding a meeting in Amman, the prime minister said Jordan is willing to offer the organ-

isation all forms of support to back its efforts in putting its programmes into effect.

Sharif Zeid thanked the AOAD for its efforts in developing agriculture in Arab countries and said Jordan would like to see all Arab League organisations stepping up their activities and promoting their services to Arab countries.

The AOAD's executive board opened a three-day meeting in Amman Monday to discuss food security for the Arab world, the

implementation of pan-Arab agricultural projects and cooperation among regional and international organisations in agriculture-related affairs.

After the meeting with Sharif Zeid, Majed Jashi, the Bahraini minister of agriculture, said board members briefed him on the organisation's activities, programmes and research work and its plans to help the Arab world achieve food security and promote agricultural production.

Mr. Ben Tarif said Jordan has made major strides in developing food security through the appropriate management of productive land and the employment of modern technology.

Members on the AOAD executive board represent Jordan, Bahrain, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Djibouti.

Orthodox Council appeals for support of rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Orthodox Council which represents the Arab Orthodox community in Jordan and Palestine Tuesday issued an appeal to all Orthodox communities in the world to offer support for the community's efforts in affirming its rights in the Holy Land.

The appeal was also directed towards gaining support for the community's cultural and social centres.

The appeal, issued by Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, chairman of the Orthodox Society, created in 1992, with full backing from the Jordanian government and the Palestine National Authority, is seeking to protect the property and real estate of the Orthodox church in Palestine and to improve social, cultural and spiritual services for the Arab Orthodox community.

In earlier statements the Central Orthodox council

accused the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem of leasing and selling church property to Israelis and of neglecting the affairs of the Orthodox community and their cultural centres and schools in Jordan and Palestine which fall under his jurisdiction.

The time has come for serious efforts to be made to guarantee and protect Orthodox church property in Jerusalem and other parts of Palestinian lands, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He accused the patriarch and his assistants of shirking their responsibilities towards the holy places and

determination in Jordan and Palestine to pursue efforts for the implementation of the 1958 Jordanian law on the Orthodox Church. The law provides for safeguards to the community and their rights to Orthodox property.

The statement also voiced resolve to pursue contacts with the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul) and other churches to expose the patriarch's shortcomings and his failure to improve the conditions of the church and its affiliated cultural and social centres.

Al Bilad journalists charged with insulting Lower House of Parliament released on bail

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two journalists of Al Bilad were released on a JD 1,000 bond Tuesday afternoon after being detained again Monday, this time on charges of insulting the Lower House of Parliament, according to Dr. Nafeef Tawareh.

Al Bilad Editor Khaled Kasabeh and cartoonist Usama Hajaj were jailed again because Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Srour filed a complaint last month accusing the weekly of publishing cartoons that slurred the House in October.

"Parliament members were upset at what was published in the newspaper, and since there is a Press and Publications Law, we decided to file a complaint," Mr. Srour told the Jordan Times Monday.

The cartoon, which was published in mid-October, shows two doors next to each other. On one is written in Arabic "Dawara Isithma'at" (extraordinary session) and on the other "Dawaret Mish" (toilet) and two people asking each other which door they will enter.

"Our cartoon was not targeting the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament, and the cartoon did not indicate the Jordanian Parliament. What we meant was other parliaments," Mr. Kasabeh told the Jordan Times Tuesday evening shortly after he was set free on bail.

He said that after the cartoon was published he was contacted by Mr. Srour who demanded an apology "whichever we did published in our next issue," Mr. Kasabeh added.

"We issued a statement explaining our intentions and that we were not targeting the Jordanian Parliament, but still the Parliament insisted on filing a complaint," he added.

Moreover, Mr. Kasabeh said the cartoon was published at least two months before the Parliament convened, and there were no articles related to the Parliament in that specific issue.

According to Mr. Kasabeh, Amman Prosecutor General Mohammad Khashashneh

informed him Tuesday that there are three complaints filed against Al Bilad, and that he requested that Mr. Kasabeh be present to hear the new cases.

The maximum penalty for the violation of any article of the Press and Publications Law is JD 1,000. The penalty for slandering the Parliament could reach three years imprisonment.

The same two journalists were involved in a similar incident last week when they were detained on Nov. 13 on charges of tarnishing the image of Islam.

The court is expected to hear both Al Bilad cases next week, according to Mr. Tawareh.

Symposium on medical malpractice opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on medical malpractice will today open at the University of Jordan with the participation of 400 doctors and medical specialists from public and private sector institutions in Jordan, according to Dr. Mahmoud Abu Khalaf, dean of the university's Faculty of Medicine and director of Jordan University Hospital.

Dr. Abu Khalaf told the Jordan Times that the symposium, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, is aimed at clarifying citizens' rights in medical malpractice.

The symposium will also focus attention on the duties and the role of the judicial authorities concerning medical malpractice, according to Dr. Abu Khalaf.

Dr. Abu Khalaf stressed the need for legislation dealing with malpractice issues.

Seven sessions will be held during which doctors will review a set of working papers dealing with issues pertaining to malpractice.

the responsibilities of doctors, insurance against malpractice and their exposure in the media, Dr. Abu Khalaf said.

The new era of democracy means that Jordanians feel they can demand their rights and compensation in cases of medical malpractice, Dr. Abu Khalaf said.

Major developments in medical services in the Kingdom is the reason for the flow of patients from the rest of the Arab World seeking medical treatment in Jordan, according to Dr. Abu Khalaf.

Dr. Abu Khalaf said that the symposium will be followed by a 36-minute film on the history of cinema.

Amman municipality to construct two tunnels for pedestrians

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality will construct two pedestrian tunnels, according to deputy mayor of Amman Fahad Omoush. One is expected to be built near the ring road linking the urban development and Amman municipality housing estates in the southern outskirts of Amman, and the second near the Royal Cultural Centre.

The tender for constructing the JD 60,000 tunnel near the ring road has been floated, while the tender for the second tunnel near the RCC will be floated early next year.

Minister of Transport and Communications, Dr. Ahmad Al-Saleh, said the tenders will be floated in January.

The tunnels will be built at a cost of JD 10 million each.

The tunnels will be completed within six months.

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Walesa aides allege vote fraud, challenge poll result

WARSAW (R) — Defeated President Lech Walesa's campaign staff alleged fraud by victorious ex-Communist Aleksander Kwasniewski's followers and said Tuesday they would submit a legal challenge to the election result.

"We have a basis for submitting to the Supreme Court a motion for the elections to be annulled," Mr. Walesa's campaign spokesman Boguslaw Kowalski told Reuters. He said that in some places members of local Electoral Commissions supporting Mr. Kwasniewski placed fraudulent vote cards in the ballot boxes.

Just about 600,000 votes separated the two candidates in Sunday's election which had a record turnout.

"We have evidence that voting cards were thrown in, evidence that one of the members of an Electoral Commission in Warsaw added a whole sheaf — he was caught red-handed," Mr. Kowalski added.

Mr. Walesa's staff also protested in a statement that Mr. Kwasniewski contested the vote while claiming to have a higher education, when his old university had said he never graduated, and

had failed to declare to parliament some shares held by his wife.

"It is not right that the president of the republic was chosen by voting cards added to the urns, rather than by the choices of voters, and that he should have had more than one accusation of telling untruths hanging over him — and that is what Aleksander Kwasniewski did."

Mr. Walesa has bitterly conceded defeat at the hands of former Communists he once removed from power, but has vowed to fight back in the next parliamentary elections.

"I still have lots of energy and...the tango will start for real now," the former Solidarity leader told a news conference after official returns confirmed he had lost to ex-Communist Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Mr. Walesa said he fully respected the democratic verdict, but he accused Mr. Kwasniewski of playing foul in blaming hardships caused by decades of communism on Solidarity-led reforms.

"Unemployment, the collapse of state farms are bills that communism should

pay, but they made us pick up the tab."

Mr. Walesa called on his supporters from fragmented right-wing and centrist parties as well as on his election committee to unite into a bloc and prepare for 1997 parliamentary elections.

The pugnacious former shipyard electrician firmly rejected Mr. Kwasniewski's extended hand and an offer of cooperation.

"We have nothing to say to each other and I will not talk to him," Mr. Walesa said, adding that he would not attend the official handing over of power to his successor.

Mr. Kwasniewski, who according to surveys got the biggest support from those dissatisfied with five years of reforms, the unemployed and less-educated, rushed to assure Mr. Walesa's frustrated supporters he was not their enemy.

"I will not use my position to strengthen just one side of the Polish electorate. I feel responsible for the interests of all of us," he said.

Mr. Kwasniewski, who in the campaign portrayed Mr. Walesa as a political troublemaker, called on Mr.

Walesa to help him unite Poles in a joint effort to secure a better future.

Mr. Kwasniewski's victory in Sunday's poll is a remarkable prize for six years of hard work, transforming the image of the former ruling Communist Party into that of a modern Social-Democratic group. The party already controls the government and parliament.

The 52-year-old outgoing president made clear he would not stand after Mr. Kwasniewski ended his five-year term.

"I have been president and do not think I will be running again," he said. "But I will be standing by and promoting a new president."

Mr. Walesa did not give names but earlier this year he told Reuters he saw Andrzej Olechowski, a well-respected former finance and foreign minister, as presidential material.

Mr. Olechowski founded a Conservative-Liberal Party earlier this year, hoping to fill the void on the right ahead of the next parliamentary elections and his group is likely to be one of the pillars of Mr. Walesa's bloc.

Little joy seen for Keating in Australia poll gain

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's personal popularity is recovering in opinion polls but analysts said Tuesday the conservative opposition lead still appeared too great for Labour to catch up before 1996 elections.

However, they said Mr. Keating's strong gain with voters could become a valuable campaign weapon against the Liberal-National Coalition which will be trying to end 13 years of Labour rule.

"If you have got a popular leader, you highlight your leadership," Australian Broadcasting Corp electoral analyst Antony Green told Reuters.

"If the (opposition) Liberal Party has got any sense, they won't campaign on leadership in this campaign."

While Labour continues to trail the coalition by about eight points in three main public opinion polls, Mr. Keating for the first time is more popular than opposition leader John Howard.

The polls show Mr. Keating leads Mr. Howard as preferred prime minister by between one and three percentage points.

But analysts say the coalition's lead is too great and Mr. Keating's too narrow for Labour to catch up significantly ahead of national elections which must be held by May 1996.

"If the parties were more closely matched, it would be significant," electoral analyst Malcolm MacKerrars told Reuters.

"I don't see any evidence to suppose that Keating will win the election," he said. Australian National

University researcher Clive Bean, a specialist on elections and public opinion, told Reuters Mr. Keating would need to widen his lead to 20 points before it would lead to a two to three point boost in Labour's support.

The level of support for parties is related to the level of support for leaders, but only to a modest degree," he said.

"You will need to see a change of 20-odd per cent in order for that to make a change of two to three per cent in the vote."

"If there is some of a surge toward Mr. Keating...then some of those people could be expected to change their general view of the parties from a pro-coalition view to pro-Labour."

Although he expected a strong focus on the leaders during the election cam-

paign, Mr. Bean said Mr. Howard and Mr. Keating were not popular enough to base campaigning on leadership.

"Keating's historical rating with voters hasn't been all that great," he said.

"John Howard does not have a terribly good image overall, either."

The coalition has maintained a strong opinion poll lead over Labour throughout this year.

Mr. MacKerrars said he expected the coalition's opinion poll lead to translate into an election victory, with a majority of about 20 seats in parliament's 148-seat lower house.

Labour, which has ruled this nation of 18 million since March 1983, must hold an election by mid-May. Most parliamentarians and analysts expect the election in March.

California's immigration measure receives setback

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge has struck down a key part of California's Proposition 187, the United States' strongest measure against illegal aliens and cast doubt on the remaining sections.

In a ruling hailed by opponents of the draconian measure as a victory and described by its proponents as an "outrage," U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer said it was unconstitutional for California to deny primary and secondary education to the children of illegal

immigrants.

She also struck down the so-called "squealer" provision, which would have required teachers and school authorities to inform the immigration and naturalization service of their suspicions that children were the sons and daughters of illegal immigrants.

Judge Pfaelzer said illegal immigration fell under federal jurisdiction and noted: "The state (of California) is powerless to enact its own scheme to regulate immigration."

Judge Pfaelzer, in a 71-page ruling, also cast doubt on those provisions, saying:

"While it appears that the state can permissibly deny higher education to illegal immigrants and their children."

Proposition 187, the so-called "save our state" measure approved by voters last November by an overwhelming majority of 59 per cent to 31 per cent, would also deny welfare benefits and all but emergency medical services to illegal aliens.

Judge Pfaelzer, in a 71-page ruling, also cast doubt on those provisions, saying:

Soviet plot sparked 1941 U.S.-Japan war — KGB man

TOKYO (R) — Moscow used a top collaborator in Washington to heighten war tensions between the United States and Japan, provoking the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour that made the Americans join the war, a Japanese daily said Tuesday.

Vitaly G. Pavlov, 81, a senior Soviet spy who handled North America during World War II, told the Mainichi Shimbun in an interview that the key man in the plot was Harry White, special advisor to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau.

Mr. Pavlov said Mr. White was a Soviet "collaborator" who had the trust of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull. "He was not what the Americans later would call a Soviet agent, he was just a collaborator," he told Mainichi.

Historians said Mr. Pavlov's testimony provided missing facts about Soviet infiltration in Washington in World War II.

"We only knew that White was accused of being a

Soviet spy. Mr. Pavlov's testimony gives us the missing pieces and shows how elaborate Soviet activities loomed behind the U.S.-Japan row that led to Pearl Harbour," said Professor Makoto Iokibe of Kobe University.

Promised by Moscow, Mr. White wrote a memorandum to Mr. Hull that formed the basis of a document called the "Hull note," which was regarded by Japan as an ultimatum and so led to the sneak attack on Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7, 1941. The U.S. went to war against Japan as a result of the attack.

In the Hull note, the United States demanded Tokyo withdraw troops from Indochina, China proper and northeastern China under Japan's puppet government Manchukuo, in exchange for removal of a U.S. oil embargo which was crippling Japan.

Japan occupied China's three northeastern provinces in 1931, started a full-scale war with China in 1937 and took over French Indochina after Germany defeated

France in June 1940. The Hull note was handed to Japan's envoys on Nov. 26. Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo interpreted it as a virtual ultimatum because of Mr. Hull's surprisingly stiff and sweeping demands to abandon all of Japan's conquests since 1931.

Before the Hull note, the only U.S. demand Japan was to withdraw from French Indochina. Five days after receiving the Hull note, Emperor Hirohito's War Council ordered Japan's aircraft carrier fleet to attack Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7.

Mr. Pavlov said the plot to stiffen Washington's stance against Japan, after "Operation Snow" (after White's family name, came in an order from Soviet spy chief Beria in October 1940).

Mr. Pavlov said he travelled to Washington in May 1941 and met White at a Washington restaurant.

White became head of the International Monetary Fund in 1946. He was summoned in the "red purge" hearings by Senator Joe McCarthy but died in 1948 before any evidence was found.

China, withdrew its forces from the Asian continent and free Manchuria from de facto Japanese control.

All three parts found their ways into the Hull note.

"Japan's expansion in Asia was threatening the Soviet Far East at a time when we were anticipating war with Germany," Mr. Pavlov told the Mainichi.

"We had to avoid a possible second front (with Japan in the Far East). We did not directly plan to trigger war between Japan and the United States, but if that happened, we did not mind."

"I told White it was up to him to find plausible reasons for the United States to make those demands to Japan."

Mr. Pavlov retired from the Soviet KGB secret service in 1987 and has just finished an unpublished memoir.

Mr. White became head of the International Monetary Fund in 1946. He was summoned in the "red purge" hearings by Senator Joe McCarthy but died in 1948 before any evidence was found.



Doku Zavgayev

4 killed in Chechenya as election day looms

MOSCOW (R) — At least four people were killed in fighting between Russian troops and separatist rebels in Chechenya in the past 24 hours, less than a month ahead of elections, Russian and Chechen sources said Tuesday.

Both sides reported clashes as tension remained high in the Transcaucasian region ahead of the Dec. 17 polls for the Russian parliament and regional administration.

Rebel commanders made clear they intended to disrupt the voting and Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov said his troops were "preparing for the war."

But Mr. Kulikov was sure the elections in Chechenya would go ahead. "I don't think the situation will get more complicated ahead of the elections," he told the Echo Moskva radio station.

However, the Izvestia newspaper said in a report from rebel strongholds in southern Chechenya that local opposition to the polls was strong.

"If we are men, we should not hold these elections," it quoted rebel Commander-in-Chief Aslan Maskhadov as saying.

"We will not allow any elections," said Field Commander Shirvani Basayev, the brother of Shamil Basayev who became a Chechen hero after leading a daring hostage seizure in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk in June.

"Holding elections in Chechenya is unrealistic," Shamil Basayev told Izvestia. "As far as my own response, I am not saying anything...We will continue our discussion on the ruins of the Kremlin."

Russian media reports have suggested Shamil Basayev could be in Moscow. But TASS, quoting an informed Interior Ministry source, said this was not true and the Izvestia report indicated he was in Chechenya. Chechen separatist

leaders have said their attendance at Cairo is vital for it to have any chance of success.

Zaire has vowed to expel one million Rwandan refugees in its territory unless they return home voluntarily by Dec. 31.

Mr. Carter denied that the summit could lead to a breakthrough, he said: "I hope so. It's one of the last chances to find a solution."

Asked if the summit could lead to a breakthrough, he said: "I hope so. It's one of the last chances to find a solution."

Leaders of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire will attend the summit in Cairo starting next Tuesday, Mr. Carter said.

Abdul Aziz Hani, the interim U.N. special envoy to Burundi, told Reuters time was running out to solve the two problems.

Asked if the summit could lead to a breakthrough, he said: "I hope so. It's one of the last chances to find a solution."

Thousands of people have been killed and the casualty toll has been creeping up daily despite a loose ceasefire agreement reached in June.

Mr. Udagov, information minister under Mr. Dudayev, doubted any involvement by separatists in a remote-controlled bomb attack Monday against Doku Zavgayev, head of the Moscow-based Chechen government.

He quoted Mr. Dudayev's Interior Minister Kazbek Makhashov as saying the attack, in which Mr. Zavgayev was slightly wounded, might have resulted from strife between pro-Moscow Chechen factions.

The apparent assassination attempt was the third against senior officials in the region in the past two months.

paramilitaries and the Angolan government had given permission for quarantining to begin.

Angop quoted UNITA's representative on the Joint Peace Commission, Isaías Samakuva, as saying that implementation of the Lusaka Accords was far behind schedule.

Mr. Samakuva said last week that UNITA would announce four nominees for posts in the unity government and the vice-presidency by Christmas, but added that this was too early.

"It will be at least seven months before the government of national unity happens, and we don't see how having a list of names can be useful," he said.

The posts have still to be decided. UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi has been conditionally offered one of two vice presidencies.

Despite the accords, UNITA fighters and government soldiers and their leaders are deeply suspicious of each other and there have been dozens of violations of the ceasefire.

Mr. Samakuva told Angop up to 5,000 UNITA troops would be confined to barracks at Vila Nova out of an estimated 60,000 UNITA troops, many of whom are to be demobilized or incorporated into the unified armed forces.

Carter wins Burundi agreement for Cairo summit

BUJUMBURA (R) —

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Tuesday he had won agreement from Burundi on a draft agenda for a Cairo summit to tackle central Africa's twin crises of Rwandan refugees and ethnic violence.

"The visit to Burundi has been completely successful. The president, prime minister and others have approved a draft of the agenda for the conference in Cairo," Mr. Carter told an airport news conference.

He said Burundi's cabinet would approve the draft later Tuesday, paving the way for the five-nation summit to try to end ethnic violence in Burundi and arrange the return of refugees who fled Rwanda's civil war last year.

Leaders of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire will attend the summit in Cairo starting next Tuesday, Mr. Carter said.

British shops open doors to midnight Beatlemania

LONDON (R) — Beatlemania gripped Britain as fans of all ages flocked to record shops which opened specially at midnight to sell the first new album in 25 years by the world's most famous pop group. Daniel McCarroll and Jennifer McHugh, both 19 and born years



The Princess of Wales is interviewed by BBC's Martin Bashir (right) in the current affairs programme, Panorama (AFP photo)

Diana admits adultery, opposes divorce

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decided to ask the prime minister to begin taking steps for signing the land leases," Finance Minister Masaaki Ota told a news conference.

It was the latest development in a saga that has threatened U.S.-Japan security ties since the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan schoolgirl in September, allegedly by three U.S. servicemen.

The government has

Japan to take legal steps on U.S. base dispute

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama decided Tuesday to take legal steps to allow him to overrule local officials and sign leases extending the life of some U.S. bases on Okinawa.

It was the latest development in a saga that has threatened U.S.-Japan security ties since the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan schoolgirl in September, allegedly by three U.S. servicemen.

A 13-member team of doctors at Athens' top heart hospital said Monday night Mr. Papandreu was suffering from a type of pneumonia and that it could take days to cure the infection in his left lung.

Government spokesman Telemachos Hitis said Mr. Papandreu's condition was "reassuring" and that there were no plans to appoint a

step that would authorise Murayama himself to sign the documents.

In a related development a joint panel of U.S. and Japanese experts met in Tokyo Monday and agreed to work promptly on trying to reduce the problems created by the presence of U.S. bases in Okinawa.

One U.S. sailor has pleaded guilty to the rape charges and two U.S. Marines have admitted involvement in the abduction and assault.

Japanese law allows the prime minister to order the governor to sign the land lease documents.

If the governor ignores the order, the prime minister can take the case to court, a

stand-in while he is in hospital.

But the news that Mr. Papandreu was ill sent shivers through the Athens Bourse, which fell 2.04 per cent Monday to close at 876.17 points.

Uncertainty was also evident within his Panhellenic Socialist Party (Pasok) after the executive bureau decided late Monday to postpone indefinitely a central committee meeting scheduled for this weekend.

The premier was being treated at the Onassis Heart Surgery Centre by a group

of heart and lung specialists headed by his personal physician, Health Minister Dimitris Kremastinos.

His wife Dimitra Liani, 40, who rushed to hospital with him, spent the night by his side. Three of his four children spent most of the night at the hospital.

Mr. Papandreu's sudden illness came hours before he was to preside over a meeting of the Pasok parliamentary group, where he was expected to hear complaints from his deputies over Ms. Liani's political ambitions.

Sri Lanka army inches towards booby-trapped Jaffna City

COLOMBO (R) — Elite Sri Lankan troops advanced cautiously Tuesday towards the city centre of Jaffna, the Tamil rebel base for 10 years, now a booby-trapped fortress sheltering a clutch of guerrillas against a final army assault.

The army said in a statement Tuesday that troops gradually began moving from the Hindu temple district of Nallur they captured Monday on the outskirts of Jaffna.

"Further advance and clearing buildings of booby traps and explosives in the Nallur area commenced at first light," the statement said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hit back with a counter-attack in the eastern Amparai district where the guerrillas had killed three paramilitary

policemen and wounded 30, it said.

The army said Sri Lanka's elite Reserve Strike Force took over from regular troops Monday and headed for the main city square of Jaffna, overcoming heavy guerrilla resistance.

At least 40 rebels were killed in fierce fighting in Nallur Monday. The army said an officer and three soldiers were killed.

However, rebel radio broadcasts monitored by Reuters in the northern town of Vavuniya said Tuesday that more than 100 soldiers were killed in Monday's fighting, while the LTTE lost only six of their cadres.

The LTTE, who have waged a 12-year war with the Sri Lankan government for an independent Tamil homeland, Tuesday called

on Jaffna people to vacate the northern Vadamarachchi and southern Tenmarachchi districts and head south into Kilinochchi on the mainland.

Analysts said any more refugees arriving in Kilinochchi would stretch resources there to the maximum. Anywhere between 100,000 and 400,000 refugees are already said to be massed in the area, which is under rebel control.

"Government officials are working around the clock. They will be unable to cope with any more refugees," a civilian arriving in Vavuniya told Reuters.

Official sources told Reuters in Vavuniya that government officials in Kilinochchi had asked Colombo for additional supplies, including generators

and lorries to transport refugees out of the area.

Police and army patrols were beefed up in Colombo to prevent a Sinhalese backlash against Tamil civilians as many members of the majority community waited impatiently for the fall of Jaffna 10 years after it was lost to the guerrillas.

Police in Colombo said they also arrested a woman suspected of running a boarding house for the LTTE in the city.

"She is suspected to have provided accommodation to Tiger suicide bombers and provided them with jobs as their cover," Colombo Police Chief G.B. Kotakadewa said.

The arrest followed a police dragnet across the capital city where the LTTE is believed to be eyeing soft targets for suicide attacks.

S. Korean prisoners go on hunger strike over Roh

SEOUL (R) — Dozens of South Korean prisoners began a hunger strike Tuesday in protest at VIP privileges for jailed former President Roh Tae-Woo as prosecutors quizzed Mr. Roh's closest advisers over his slush fund.

Mr. Roh, who confessed he amassed \$654 million during his 1988-1992 term in office and still keeps \$242 million in his secret coffers, was put into custody at the Seoul Detention House last Thursday after being arrested on corruption charges.

More than 50 inmates at the centre went on hunger strike Tuesday over what they believe is official codding of the former president, dissident sources said.

Like other detained VIPs, Mr. Roh has a cell to himself, but media reports say his room is double the usual size and that he has a private shower.

Ordinary prisoners shower communally and are kept three or four to a cell which is unheated even in the icy winter.

Also Tuesday, prosecutors questioned Kim Chong-In, Mr. Roh's former economic affairs secretary, over the fund he amassed in office.

They were also expected soon to bring in Lee Woon-Joe, a former member of parliament who was in Mr. Roh's inner circle. Both of them have been barred from leaving the country.

"I will reveal all that is still in doubt," Mr. Kim told reporters as he walked into the prosecutor general's office.

Prosecutors have until Dec. 5 to charge Mr. Roh formally, a prosecution official said.

He said under South Korean law they can detain Mr. Roh for an initial 10 days and then for a further 10 days if necessary.

A spokeswoman for the dissident group Minkyabup, a pressure group set up by relatives of protesting inmates at the detention house, released the news of the hunger strike.

"We have heard that 55 prisoners began a hunger strike today, and they will continue to do so until Mr. Roh is treated like all other prisoners and not specially," she said.

All 55 call themselves political prisoners, although the government rejects this label, saying they are common criminals.

Some are serving sentences for breaking a national security law banning contacts with Communist North Korea.

An official at the detention house said he could not comment on the hunger strike or Mr. Roh's conditions.

Che Guevara's secret burial place revealed by Bolivian general — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A retired Bolivian general has broken 28 years of silence to disclose where in Bolivia the body of legendary Cuban guerrilla leader Ernesto Che Guevara is buried, the New York Times said Tuesday.

Claiming he was among the only three people to witness the burial, General Mario Vargas Salinas told the daily in an interview that Guevara "is buried under the airstrip at Vallegrande," a provincial capital 150 kilometres southwest of Santa Cruz.

Gen. Vargas, who was a 30-year-old officer based in Vallegrande at the time of Guevara's death at the hands of the Bolivian army in 1967, said Guevara was buried on Oct. 11 of that year in a mass grave along with five other guerrillas.

The retired general said he also witnessed how Guevara's hands were cut off before burial and his death mask taken to prove to the world he was really dead.

His burial site was kept secret to prevent it from becoming a place of public homage, Gen. Vargas said.

"Enough time has passed and it's time the world knows," Gen. Vargas told the daily explaining his motives for breaking his decades-long silence.

He said he felt Cuba and Bolivia needed

to resolve their remaining differences: "If the Israelis and Palestinians can make peace, why can't we?"

Guevara, who trained as a doctor in Argentina (from where he took the nickname "Che") strove to export the Cuban revolution to Latin America after he helped lead Fidel Castro's Communist guerrillas to victory over Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista in January 1959.

After leading guerrilla expeditions in Argentina and the Belgian Congo, now Zaire, Guevara went to Bolivia in 1966, where he was given chase by the Bolivian army with the help of several agents from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Captured on Oct. 8, 1967, some 50 kilometers from Vallegrande, according to Gen. Vargas, Guevara was executed the next day by order of then Bolivia's president, General René Barrientos.

Gen. Vargas said he later met Guevara's executioner, who told him the revolutionary's last words were, "shoot, coward. You are going to kill a man."

The death mask and amputated hands of Guevara were smuggled out of Bolivia by a Bolivian journalist and are currently kept in an undisclosed location in Cuba.

Death toll rises in Nepal avalanche

KATMANDU (AP) — Hundreds of Western hikers rescued from a deadly avalanche headed home after the government scaled back its rescue operation in the peaks surrounding Mount Everest.

Authorities raised the death toll in the Nov. 10 slide to 56, and said an aerial search of the area found no sign of more survivors.

The new additions to the death toll were Nepalese, either guides or residents who run scores of tea shops

and shelters along the trek route, the government said Monday.

In all, 32 Nepalese and 24 tourists died in the massive avalanche that turned the Himalayan foothills into a sheet of snow. Searchers rescued 549 people by helicopter, the majority of them hikers.

Most trekkers left Monday or earlier, but some remained in the capital of Kathmandu, planning to return to the mountains.

"It was a nightmare, and it

looks like it is over now," said Stan Armington of Malla Treks, one of the top five trekking companies in Nepal. "We hope things will settle down soon."

In addition to the Nepalese victims, 18 Japanese, four Canadians, a German and an Irish tourist were killed.

A landslide in western Nepal the same day killed at least six people, including four tourists.

Pakistani minister says Islamic University is a haven for terrorists

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Interior Minister Nasrullah Babaar called Pakistan's Islamic University a sanctuary for militants and terrorists hiding out in the country, a ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"I will close the Islamic University if I could," Mr. Babaar was quoted as saying in the English-language newspaper The News.

His comments followed a terrorist attack Sunday on Egypt's embassy in Pakistan, which killed 17 people and wounded at least 59 others.

A suicide bomber

slammed his truck packed with explosives into the embassy grounds and triggered a lethal blast that ripped an entire side from the building and showered the area with slabs of concrete and shards of glass.

Bomb experts estimate 225 kilograms of explosives was used. The explosion left a 10-foot (3-metre) crater.

University officials called Mr. Babaar's statement irresponsible and denied the school or its students were involved in the attack.

"This is an international school with a good reputation, there are no such elements at this university," spokesman Khurshid Ah

mad told the Associated Press.

"The students are outraged at the remarks," Mr. Ahmed said.

Scores of students staged a demonstration outside Pakistan's parliament to protest Mr. Babaar's comments.

Mr. Babaar's Interior Ministry, which is heading the investigation into Sunday's bombing, has launched a sweeping manhunt for the suspects linked to that attack.

Police in the eastern city of Lahore and the southern port city of Karachi Monday detained at least 12 Egyptians for questioning.

ed a girl or boy born to them, a traditionally strong son preference combined with the mounting pressures of modern society has contributed to the phenomenon of female infanticide," it said.

"Even though biologically speaking, the probability of girl children surviving is greater than that of boys, in India the situation is the opposite," the report said.

"Missing girls reflect the unequal treatment that girls receive compared to boys," the report said.

"Whereas earlier, families gladly accept-

50 million girls 'missing' from Indian population — UNICEF

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Forty to 50 million girls are "missing" from the Indian population due to selective abortion and higher infant mortality rates, according to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"In all but a few countries of the world, there are typically 105 women for every 100 men," the report said. "India is one of the few countries where there are fewer women than men: Only 93 women for every 100 men."

"Missing girls reflect the unequal treatment that girls receive compared to boys," the report said.

"Whereas earlier, families gladly accept-

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Signals of hope

DAMASCUS IS busy sending one signal after the other to Washington and Israel that it is ready to resume peace talks and that it has faith in Prime Minister Shimon Peres as a peace partner. The official daily *Tishreen* has recently depicted Mr. Peres as a man free from the pressure of Jewish hardliners and extremists. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al Sharra has described Mr. Peres as "a man who wants peace." Peres, Mr. Sharra has said, was different from the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin because he considers peace more important than elections. This is the farthest that Damascus has ever gone to endorse an Israeli leader and express its readiness to work with him. The U.S. decision to send Dennis Ross, the special Middle East peace coordinator, to the region soon after his visit to Israel earlier this week suggests that an opportunity exists to reactivate the stalled peace negotiations between Israel and Syria.

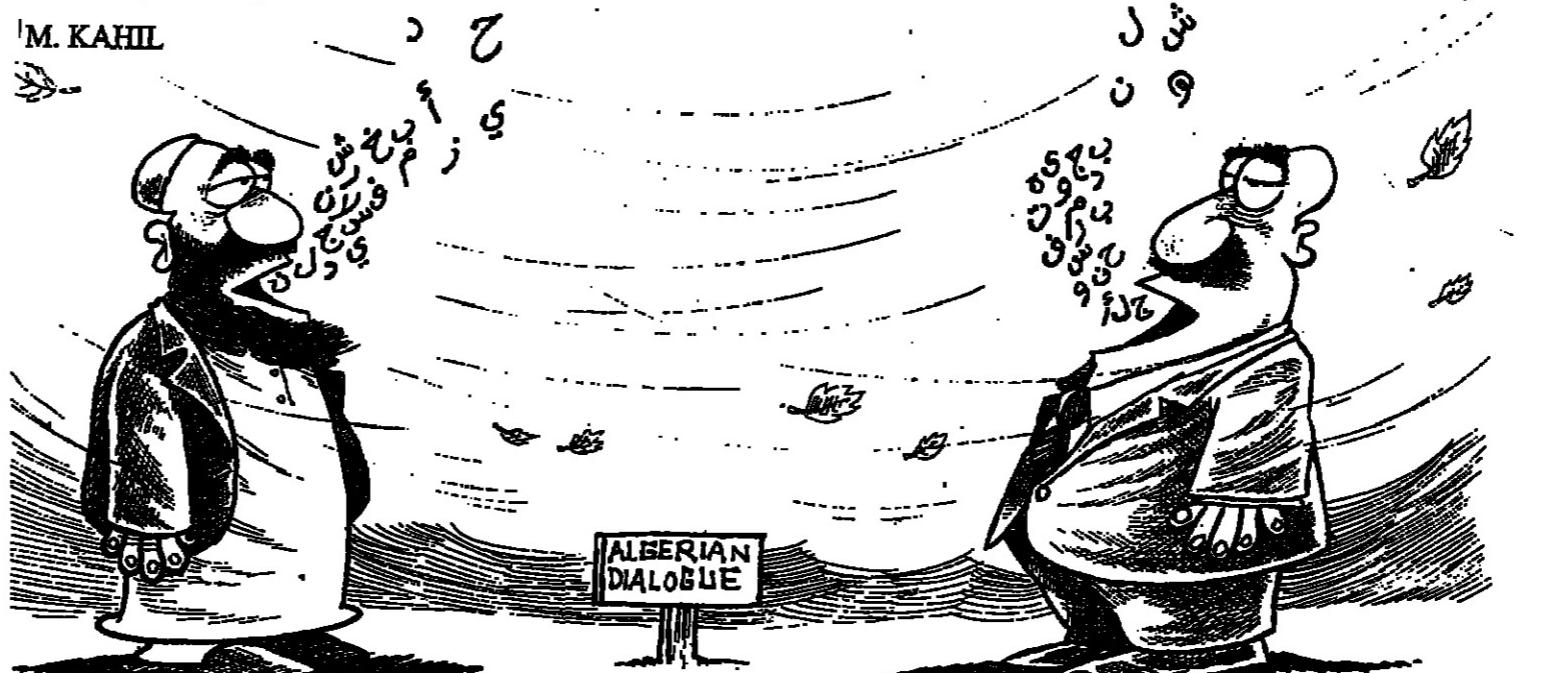
Tishreen's assertion that Syria's commitment for peace is a strategic one triggered a fresh flurry of political activity on the Syrian front. Coupled with the Syrian government's new message to the U.S. that it wants to speed up negotiations on the basis of optimistic expectations from the new Israeli prime minister, the stage has become set for a new round of peace talks that could prove fruitful. Mr. Peres is obviously keen on accelerating these talks in a bid to strengthen his grip on power and to put the process on an irreversible path. With national elections not far from the horizon, the Israeli prime minister must deliver on his promise to his people that he will attain for them comprehensive peace within a reasonable time and by so doing secure them with safe borders and a better quality of life. Israel would be the first to recognise that peace in the Middle East would remain elusive as long as Damascus is kept out of it. What started with Egypt cannot possibly end without Syria. Mr. Sharra has said on record that his country would play its role to "persuade" Lebanese guerrillas to lay down their arms after peace is signed with Israel. This promise must be assuring for Israeli policy-makers who would like nothing more than a safe northern border.

In actual terms, Syria and Israel were not too far apart even when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was still in office. The sticking point then was over security arrangements that would have included an Israeli early warning station situated on Syrian territory, something that President Hafez Assad would not accept. Mr. Peres is expected to be bolder in the quest for peace with Syria and Lebanon as he seems to be liberated from the constraints of irrational Jewish extremists in the aftermath of the assassination of Mr. Rabin. There is nothing that could please peace-loving people more than to see a real movement on the Syrian-Israeli front. The hands of the forces of peace everywhere would be strengthened a great deal once the Israeli-Syrian track starts moving ahead.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in *Al Ra'i* Tuesday attacked those Muslim radicals who opt for killing innocent people in order to achieve their goals and singled-out the radicals of Egypt, Algeria and Afghanistan as examples for groups that carry out atrocities in order to take control of those countries. Hosni Ayesh said that all the killing, the car bomb blasts and the assassinations are alien to the teachings of Islam and the perpetrators are criminals and terrorists not martyrs or heroes. Islam never taught people to kill but to be tolerant and resort for reason and dialogue. The Islamist groups that use violence and killing to achieve their ends are violating the Islamic faith and doing Muslims a great deal of harm. Their actions are tarnishing Muslims and Islam, said the writer. In the eyes of non-Muslims Islam is how Muslims behave and what they do, and so we cannot excuse the West of misinterpreting Islam when we ourselves are distorting its image and abusing our own hooligans through blowing up hospitals and schools and murdering innocent civilians like nuns and school children they must expect that others would pay them in the same coin.

A COLUMNIST in *Al Dustour* daily discussed investments in the country and said business people are attracted to invest in Jordan once they find the right opportunity climate to do so. Encouraging investments is not achieved through mere legislations and laws but rather through creating the right climate characterised by flexibility and the removal of all obstacles before investors, said Mohammad Kawash. The writer said that he had found that Jordanian business people have invested in 106 projects in Egypt, noting that all these projects are successful thanks to their management and the highly conducive climate in which they operate and the facilities they receive. The writer said if the Arab governments wish to see Arab capital invested in the Arab World they ought to pave the way for such investments not by words and intentions alone but rather by deeds. Efforts should be made towards finding new techniques to help attract investments rather than mere praising of the investment-promotion legislations and rules, otherwise Jordan will continue to see a drain of funds



Algeria after the vote

By G.H. Jansen

ON NOV. 16 the Algerian people went to the polls to elect their president despite threats by the Salvation Front (FIS) and the Armed Islamic Groups (GIA), which ordered the people not to vote and threatened to kill them if they did. "The ballot box will be your coffin" was one threat. Yet 75 per cent of the electorate went to the polls and stood patiently in long queues waiting for their turns.

That mass disobedience was a momentous event. Indeed, some might even say that elections were the first sign of the turning of the popular tide against militant political Islam, which had seemed to be making irresistible advances in many Muslim countries against corrupt authoritarian governments.

It was democracy, with considerable help from the GIA, which defeated mili-

tant political Islam in Algeria, and this could be a message of and an example for what could happen in other Muslim countries.

FIS and the GIA spokesmen go on and on endlessly about how in 1991 the military junta, which still rules Algeria, "robbed" them of victory by cancelling that year's parliamentary election, which the FIS was bound to win and which then led directly to four years of bloody civil war. The GIA and the FIS, conveniently, do not mention that only 40 per cent of the electorate went to the polls and then of that 40 per cent, only 40 per cent voted for the Islamists.

But the 1991 elections were four years ago and the fact is that in November 1995, the Algerian people were quite ready to forget and forgive the army's acts of usurpation and obeyed the army's call to go out and vote.

And that was because of

the way in which the Islamists, especially the GIA, behaved or misbehaved in the civil war. The GIA's behaviour was cruel and brutal at the extreme.

The GIA went so far that the average Muslim, even though he or she might have been a devout Muslim, decided not to have any part in this barbarity.

And how is the menace of Islamist militancy to be fought? Not through repression, which has failed wherever it has been tried. The Algerian army has been doing something worse. It has spawned a group of officers and men, "les eradicateurs," who "fighting fire with fire," believe the only way to eliminate the militants is by using the same brutal tactics. This can only have very limited tactical results.

The better and longer lasting tactic than repression is cooption: To draw the militants out and get

them to participate in the political and social process and when that is done to make them responsible for practical governance.

General Lamine Zeroual, the incumbent president who won the elections handsomely and who does not favour the eradicateurs, practised cooption by getting some Islamist groups to take part in the last election.

All these tactics were laid out in a remarkable book published by the Rand Corporation, the U.S. think tank, "The Sense of Siege," by Graham Fuller and Ian Lesser, which gives credit to Jordan for already having shown the way by using the tactics of cooption and responsibility in dealing with Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brothers were permitted to take part in the general elections of 1989. The Brothers were then for a short period, given responsibility for no less than five ministerial

portfolios.

If and when Mr. Zeroual brings Islamists into government, he would then place on them the burden of responsibility.

To succeed in the opportunity now offered him, President Zeroual, after using cooption and responsibility, must keep the promises he has made and hold to ideas he has said to have held before the elections:

That he should deal with both the zealots and the eradicateurs and that there should be all round dialogue. And he should hold elections, both general and municipal, and the populace must be strongly urged to get out and vote. But for the FIS to work itself back into general acceptability, it will have to disconnect itself from the GIA, a process which has probably begun already, now that the Algerians have broken the spell of paralysing fear that the men of the GIA had cast on them.

Walesa's defeat marks end of era in Poland

By Michel Viatteau
Agence France Presse

WARSAW — Lech Walesa's defeat in the presidential elections marks the end of an era in Poland, where for a quarter century his name has been synonymous with the fight for freedom and democracy.

The stocky electrician whose rose to fame from the grim shipyards of Gdansk in the 1970s was outpaced by an urbane 41-year-old ex-communist who plays tennis in his leisure time and enjoys speaking English to reporters.

Observers attributed Mr. Walesa's defeat partly to the fact that he was no longer in tune with the hopes and aspirations of ordinary Poles and partly to his manipulative, authoritarian leadership style — a far

cry from his days as a worker's hero who mobilised shipyard workers against communism.

"Walesa wanted to frighten the Poles, even if he promised a normal life. Aleksander Kwasniewski was efficient, normal, professional. But his election means that the future becomes a big unknown. Which allies will Kwasniewski look for?", commented historian Adam Michnik in an editorial Monday.

Mr. Michnik, who backed Mr. Walesa, also said that voters were weary of in-fighting among top political leaders. Solidarity's rhetoric, as well as the church's aggressive stance against the former communist.

But it seemed clear that for most Poles, Mr. Walesa's defeat had more significance than Mr. Kwasniewski's victory.

"It is more Walesa who has lost than Kwasniewski who has won," said historian Bronislaw Geremek of the main opposition Union for Liberty.

Speaking on private Radio Zet, Mr. Geremek said Mr. Walesa suffered from an "erosion of authority," mainly because of his authoritarian style and attempts to "manipulate the right."

Mr. Walesa's defeat was also a bitter blow for the Catholic Church, as the new president-elect has openly opposed the church's influence in Poland and has said he wants to overturn the abortion ban.

Church leaders repeatedly hinted during the electoral campaign that it would be dangerous to have as president a believer, but I think that the current president gives too much power to the clergy," said a female student of Kielce, in central Poland.

But Mr. Walesa's defeat is by no means the end of his political career.

Mr. Kwasniewski, well aware of Mr. Walesa's potential clout in the opposition camp, appealed Sunday to his rival's supporters to work together.

"There is a lot of room in Poland. A lot of work. We have a lot of problems to resolve," said the ex-communist leader.

"We must seize the opportunity to join European structures. These works can only be carried out together. By the voters of Lech Walesa, by the voters of Aleksander Kwasniewski, and by those who did not take part in the vote."

Planners must consider the plight of Balkans' displaced

By Arthur C. Helton

NEW YORK — As diplomatic efforts proceed towards possible settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, a key issue has emerged in the talks between the parties — arrangements for the nearly 4 million people displaced by the war.

This vast homeless population, spread from Stockholm to Belgrade, is composed of people in a wide variety of circumstances, including victims of brutality by erstwhile neighbours, members of mixed families unable to return to "ethnically pure" territories and evaders of military service in a war they regard as immoral.

The sometimes optimistic tenor of the negotiations is belied by the reality on the ground. Not only have people been ousted from their homes, but recent reports of mass murder and brutality have permeated the media. Can the international community realistically ask these victims of massacres and atrocities to return and live together? Ask a young Serbian woman violently expelled from her home by Muslim-Croatian forces if she would be able to live in peace with Muslims and Croats.

Ask a Muslim boy who watched his brother killed by Serbian soldiers if he

would play ball with Serbian children. As high-level political discussions take place far from the killing fields, the eyes of the traumatised seem to tell a different story.

The fact that refugees are a central consideration in the negotiations is, of course, not surprising; a basic objective of the war was to cause displacement to create ethnically "pure" jurisdictions. Repatriation under these circumstances will necessarily present complex political issues and could establish important precedents for international action in the future.

In September, representatives of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia negotiated a set of "agreed basic principles," recognising the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. These new entities agreed "to adopt and adhere to normal international human rights standards, including the obligation to allow freedom of movement and enable displaced persons to repossess their homes or receive just compensation." The parties are well-founded. Recently, there have been several reports of coerced movements as the parties to the conflict urge selective resettlement to strengthen their political positions when the final maps are drawn.

In September, the UNHCR protested to the Croatian and Bosnian governments about the forced return of refugees to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in violation of international refugee treaties. Also in

September, Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, ordered displaced Serbs to leave Banja Luka and resettle in designated municipalities or face food and health care.

In even more elemental terms, respect for human rights and the right to freely choose a place of residence are paramount preconditions to encouraging return. Objective information sources must be established to enable prospective returnees to make informed decisions. Effective confidence-building measures will be crucial to overcoming fear, suspicion and hatred.

As the UNHCR states in its preliminary plan, repatriation "should be a joint effort of all capable organisations — the U.N. system, regional financial institutions, non-governmental organisations — and bilateral donors."

Crucial implementation details are being discussed at the "proximity talks"

under way in Dayton, Ohio. These should include the structure and activities of the commissions on human rights as well as refugees and displaced persons.

Independent experts and non-governmental organisation representatives should have significant roles in these commissions, providing advice or monitoring compliance to minimise the risks of human rights violations and further conflict.

As currently configured, international institutions are ill-equipped to deal with "post-emergency" situations involving solutions for forcibly displaced people. Humanitarian relief should lead to development, but political will is often lacking to ensure sustainable physical development.

Perhaps more important of all, the immediate protection of people forced to flee must lead to systematic respect for human rights and encouragement of the evolution of open societies. An extraordinary effort will be required to realise the perhaps now-distant dream of the multiethnic Bosnian and Herzegovina.

The writer, director of migration programmes at the Open Society Institute, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1995 7

Prime minister pledges to rectify associations' situation

(Continued from page 1)

opponents" in a recent interview as "unjust and unfair."

Khaled Saeed said that the silent majority has chosen to march behind the wise Hashemite leadership and to join the camp of peace, the camp of affection and brotherly love.

Bosnian factions seal historic peace deal

(Continued from page 1)

to the U.N. indicated that the resolutions would be offered with an eye toward passage Wednesday. The Security Council was scheduled to meet on the proposals beginning at 2100 GMT Tuesday.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali thanked Mr. Clinton following his announcement, and asked the world to recognise the role played by U.N. peacekeepers, who he said helped "contain" the conflict.

"I want to thank President Clinton of the United States for the peace initiative he undertook which brought the contending parties to the negotiating table," Dr. Boutros-Ghali said in a statement.

In Brussels NATO hailed the Bosnia peace agreement and said it was ready to send in a planned 60,000-strong force to help implement the agreement.

"We welcome the announcement of the peace deal which offers the opportunity to obtain a just and lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia," an alliance spokesman said.

He added: "NATO is ready to apply the military aspects of the peace deal according to the terms of an appropriate resolution voted by the U.N. Security Council."

NATO has been preparing a force of 60,000 men from around 20 countries for its first military land operation to support the peace accord in Bosnia.

With the addition of reserves, support camps, pilots,

For some reason, this has been designated as the 1 monetary transaction. The Jordanian bank service department is the only one to be able to handle money transfers, when the rest of them for no more than 10 hours of banking.

Whether your account consists of a multi-million dollar letter of credit or a small business, I would like to assure you that our main objective is to make it easier for you to do business with us. We have a team of experienced professionals who are dedicated to providing excellent customer service.

One wonders if the compatibility with the objective of leading the twenty-first century as a prosperous and regional business.

However, some people explain to our agency that keeping them in the country, not as letting them go, is the best way to achieve success.

The rest of the Labour cabinet remained unchanged.

Peres announces cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

"And above all we have to avoid widening the large differences among the people."

But he acknowledged that given more time he would have been able to broaden the slim coalition base which under Mr. Rabin counted on the support of 63 deputies in the Knesset.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a Meretz member, said the earlier dispute centred on "unacceptable" promises made to religious leaders.

"My role will be to show that all religious people are not extremists or supporters of Kahane," he said, referring to the anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane killed in New York in 1990.

Rabbi Amital, 71, heads Meimad, a moderate religious movement set up in 1988 and which supports the idea of making territorial concessions in exchange for peace.

Some of the questions have been answered. Some still linger, as unresolved as the murders of Nicole Brown and her friend Ronald Goldman. Ms. Clark

is

Rights group urges ban on arms sales to Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

issue, coincided with accusations by Turkish President Suleiman Demirel that Syria was aiding and harbouring what he called anti-Turkey terrorists — a clear reference to the PKK.

On Monday, Mr. Demirel was quoted by London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat as saying Ankara tried to reach agreement with Damascus over the issue but failed, adding "the problem of terrorism in our country is that Syria supports it and gives it shelter."

But PKK chief Abdullah Ocalan told Al Hayat in an interview published also

More than 18,000 people have been killed in the PKK's fight for self-rule in southeast Turkey since 1984. The Turkish government has spurned seeking a political solution and is intent on defeating the PKK militarily.

12 killed in Baghdad blast — opposition

DUBAI (AFP) - Twelve people were killed and 20 wounded in a car-bomb attack in central Baghdad on offices of the ruling Baath Party last week, the opposition said Tuesday. A spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups, told AFP by telephone from London that the building which houses the Baath offices was destroyed in the attack last Thursday. But residents of the Iraqi capital, questioned by AFP, said they heard no such explosion on the day.

Euro-Med meeting aims for peace in place of strife

By Jeremy Lovell
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The European Union (EU) and a host of Mediterranean states meet this month to try to find common ground on which to build defences against violence, racism and brotherly love.

in the centre of its capital. Against this backdrop, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian autonomous territories, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey will sit down with the EU to agree a broad policy of political and economic cooperation.

The Barcelona declaration

pledges to fight terrorism, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, respect mutual borders, promote human rights and religious tolerance, combat organised crime and drugs trafficking, and create a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by 2010.

Fighting drugs, terrorism, fundamentalism, and protecting the environment cannot be dealt with bilaterally; they have to be treated globally," a Brussels-based Tunisian diplomat told Reuters.

"Barcelona will not just be positive. It will be a success because we are going there with a spirit of complementarity not competition."

It has opened talks with Lebanon, in preliminary discussions with Algeria and has said it will start negotiating with Syria and the Palestine authority when the time is ripe.

European Parliament

willing, the EU will have a

frontline. Barcelona is an idea whose time is ripe."

The European Union, which already has or is in the process of negotiating bilateral trade deals with most of the Barcelona participants, is of the same opinion.

The conference does not take the place of the bilateral relationships between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, but will give them added value with the aim of agreeing on priorities on a multilateral level," it said in a cover note to the draft declaration.

The EU already has association accords with Tunisia, Israel and Morocco. It aims to conclude one with Jordan by mid-1996 and Egypt by the end of next year.

It has opened talks with

Lebanon, in preliminary

discussions with Algeria

and has said it will start

negotiating with Syria and

the Palestine authority

when the time is ripe.

"We must not repeat the

errors of the past," he said.

France, suffering from a

rash of bomb attacks attributed to Algerian Islamic

fundamentalists, will be

particularly interested in

the outcome and follow-up

to the conference.

If the recent marathon

negotiations between the

EU and Morocco leading to

agreement on an associa-

tion accord are anything to

go by, many EU members

will be equally interested in

the question of immigration

from the south.

Germany, the Nether-

lands and Belgium led the

demands that Morocco take

back its illegal immigrants.

But they were not the

only countries to voice con-

cern that their relative

wealth was proving too

much of a lure to their

poorer southern neigh-

bours, with consequent

socially and economically

disruptive effects at home.

"We know very well that

the only way we have of

controlling intolerance and

immigration in order to

maintain political stability

in the south of Europe is

economic cooperation,"

Commissioner Marin said.

The choice of Barcelona

as the conference venue is

apt.

The ancient city is a ma-

jor Mediterranean port and

commercial centre that in its history has been occupied by Romans, Visigoths, Moors and Franks. It is, as such, a melting pot for the array of cultures attending the conference.

"Barcelona is at the same time symbolic and the launch of a process," one Middle Eastern diplomat said.

"We will continue to meet periodically at foreign ministers' level to review progress and give new impetus where needed."

Apart from the 27 countries that will sign the Barcelona declaration, Mauritania, the Arab League and the Arab Maghreb Union will also attend as special guests.

Hovering on the fringes of the event will be ambassadors from the United States, Russia, Slovenia, Albania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Saudi Arabia.

Security in the Canarian city is likely to be a nightmare.



Close encounter: Prosecution and defence lawyers crowd together during the O.J. trial. From left: Johnnie Cochran, Marcia Clark, Robert Shapiro and Christopher Darden

After O. J., the cash still goes round and round

Trial of the century: The main player now cuts a sorry figure but the supporting cast is wheeling and dealing with vengeance

By John Carlin

and Mr. Darden were seen on holiday together at the Lake Tahoe resort a few days after the trial. They were photographed coming out of a Los Angeles hotel. So they might have been involved. But sadly, no, they are not getting married. Ms. Clark said during a speech at a women's California, on Tuesday that she "burst out laughing" when she read the report in a supermarket tabloid.

But, yes, according to sources at the William Morris talent agency, their client Mr. Darden is engaging in consenting sex with Anita Hill, a law professor from Oklahoma who leapt

to fame a few years back when she accused Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court judge, of sexual harassment. William Morris has an interest in perpetuating the Darden mystery, for they helped him sign a publishing deal worth \$1.3 million with HarperCollins: a nice sum but \$2.9 million less than Ms. Clark secured from Viking for her book.

Mr. Cochran has also signed up for a book: My Journey to Justice. He has obtained "a very substantial multi-million dollar deal."

But his refusal to specify just how much he is getting suggests he is miffed at Ms.

Clark for having lost the legal battle but winning the Battle of the Books. Alan Dershowitz, another lawyer of the Simpson "Dream Team," is picking up a mere \$50,000 for Reasonable Doubts, a book he says will be of an academic bent.

O.J., meanwhile, is cutting a rather sorry figure. He has been kicked out of his favourite golf club; he has been dumped by his agency, Creative Management; he continues to be bombarded with death-threats; he still faces ruin in pending "wrongful death" civil suits brought by the Brown and Goldman families; no one has yet made

him an offer to write a new book; and last weekend he endured the ignominy of being told to stay away from a sports memorabilia convention in Atlantic City; he had been hoping to sell autographed photographs, at \$15.95, of the highway pursuit that preceded his arrest in June 1994.

The word is that O.J. spends most of his time at his Los Angeles home doing nothing — and alone. Ms. Barbieri, a 28-year-old Playboy and underwear model, dumped him live on ABC television a couple of weeks back. She said he had stayed celibate during O. J.'s imprisonment but

was disappointed in her

hopes that he would return

a better person. What did

she say, was his proposal

that they should sell

photographs of their reuni-

on to the highest, tabloid

bidder.

"It was all of a sudden.

They'll play lots of

money for pictures of you

and I together," Ms. Bar-

bieri told ABC. "And then

the next thing I know he's

coming. And he's got the

photographed with him."

In case anyone has failed

to get the moral of the O. J.

story, that money in Amer-

ica is everything, here's the

quote of the year from Ms.

Barbieri's brother Michael.

Angry that his father and

half-brother were paid to

appear on television but

that he had missed out, he

told People magazine when

they refused to cough up for

an interview: "I'm not

going to stab my sister in

the back for nothing."

The lifting of city centre restrictions and shop entrance security checks has had a huge impact in Belfast and elsewhere.

There is a tremendous increase in activity," Mr. Stringer said.

In north Belfast, where one-fifth of the conflict's 3,200 deaths occurred, people cling to hopes that peace is permanent.

Belfast is now in its second "peace-time" Christmas shopping period and traders say business is booming.

The IRA declared a cessation of hostilities in September 1994 and its foes in pro-British "Loyalist" bands proclaimed a matching truce six weeks later.

The change is "fantastic," according to John Stringer, chief executive of the Belfast-based Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce.

"One of the most beneficial points for ordinary people

is the restoration of confidence and the ability to move around any part of the country without fear," he told Reuters.

The lifting of city centre

restrictions and shop

entrance security checks

has had a huge impact in Belfast and elsewhere.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1995

Saudis say oil price too low as OPEC meets

VIENNA (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Naimi said here Tuesday that crude oil prices on world markets ought to be "higher."

He made the remark as Venezuela's Erwin Arrieta, outgoing president of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said non-OPEC producers had "unduly abused" efforts by OPEC to stabilise the market.

Sheikh Naimi's comment came as OPEC ministers were faced with the dilemma of how to support prices against a background of rising non-OPEC crude oil output and substantial overshooting of national quotas by several OPEC members.

Mr. Arrieta warned in his opening address that a serious "imbalance" in the market carried a "potential risk of... a dangerous price war" which could have "devastating effects" on oil producers' economies and threaten the security of supply of consumer nations.

He said "the continued, substantial rise in non-OPEC production," which had dominated the market in recent months, reflected a "serious anomaly."

While OPEC's proven oil reserves were three times larger than non-OPEC reserves and "vastly more accessible and less expensive to exploit," forecasts for non-OPEC supply for 1995-96 had been revised upwards, and those of supply from OPEC reduced," Mr. Arrieta said.

He said producers outside the organisation had taken advantage of OPEC's self-imposed curbs on output to "steadily erode our market share."

While OPEC was producing below capacity, other producers were "stretching their capacity to the limit."

Mr. Arrieta warned that this situation involved "dangers in the longer term" because "unchecked increases in non-OPEC supply are driving OPEC countries of vital funds required for investment in new capacity" needed to meet world demand in a few years.

This could put the world on course for "future supply crises" accompanied by "an escalation in prices and widespread instability" in the markets, the Venezuelan minister said.

Ammar Makjoufi, Algeria's minister of industry and energy, who was elected to

Aid for poorest states under threat, World Bank head says

BONN (AFP) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn warned Tuesday of "unthinkable" consequences if other donor countries follow the United States in slashing their contribution to the body's special lending arm for the world's poorest countries.

Congress wants to cut the pledged U.S. contribution for the current three-year funding period of the International Development Association (IDA) from \$1.25 billion to around \$700 million, as a result of which other World Bank members were "trying to hold the IDA together," Mr. Wolfensohn said.

He said if other donor countries made cuts in the same proportions, this would reduce IDA funds to 78 recipient countries — home for two to three billion people — from \$6 billion to \$3.5 billion a year.

"If we cut the IDA in half, it would be an enormous blow to our activities," the World Bank president said. "It's a crisis."

This was a case where "the rest of the world has to lead itself" and not follow the

U.S. example, which he hoped was just "a moment of aberration" by Congress.

"Otherwise you're going to have 78 countries literally on the ropes," Mr. Wolfensohn told journalists during a first official visit to Bonn by officials from the German government.

Germany is the third biggest donor for the IDA, after the United States and Japan and it is also the third biggest World Bank shareholder after the other two.

Germany and Canada, the sixth biggest contributor, have already imposed limits on use of their contributions for the current July 1993-June 1996 funding period because of the U.S. move, and there are fears future contributions will now be hit.

The IDA lends money to countries unable to afford the market cost of credit. Loans are interest-free, repayable over 35-40 years after a 10-year grace period, but the IDA is already in arrears by \$1.6 billion.

Mr. Spranger made clear that, like most other donor countries, Germany was not prepared to make up the U.S. shortfall.

Major issues warning about single currency

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister John Major said Monday that the European Union must consider in full the implications of a single currency, or risk the future prosperity of Europe.

"The price of error would be too high for Europe, individually and collectively. This is something all of us, even the most enthusiastic advocates, need to consider," he said in his annual Mansion House speech before the City.

Mr. Major pointed to a number of important issues that should be addressed given that a single currency would inevitably divide the European Union into two camps.

Only Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands are expected at present to be among the hard core of countries likely to launch monetary union in 1999.

If some went ahead while others did not, the union would be divided between those countries which adopted the single currency and those which did not.

Mr. Major said, adding that it was unclear how a single currency and the currencies of the rest of the union would coexist.

"How would Europe's institutions serve the interests of those countries which adopted the single currency and those who didn't? What would it mean for the Community budget? What would it mean for the single market?" he said.

The prime minister, however, stressed that Britain was keeping her options open, and that the single currency would affect the country whether or not it decided to take part.

Mr. Major also said in his speech that Britain must cut public spending and taxation, in order to compete effectively with the emerging Asian economic powerhouses.

The prime minister said that to achieve this aim, his Conservative government intended to increase the role of the private sector within the public domain.



Asian central banks unite against speculators

SINGAPORE (AFP) —

Asian central banks have

closed ranks by signing pacts

giving themselves more li-

quidity to extinguish specula-

tive attacks on currencies,

but analysts said this may not

detour assaults on vulnerable

units.

The central banks of Aus-

tralia, Hong Kong, Indonesia,

Malaysia and Thailand

Monday forged an interlock-

ing set of bilateral repurchase

agreements, known as repos,

to boost their ability to inter-

vene in the currency markets.

This followed a Singapore-

Indonesia repo signing over

the weekend. The Philippines

hopes to pack up a similar

deal with Hong Kong this

month, and possibly before

the end of the year.

A Japanese banker in

Hong Kong doubted whether

the repos would be effective

against speculation but said

the agreements "are better

than none at all."

Joseph Yam, chief execu-

tive of the Hong Kong Mon-

etary Authority (HKMA)

said after Monday's signing that the repos will allow the banks to quickly enhance their foreign ex-

change reserves in "times of

need."

He declined to give any

amounts, saying "we don't

want speculators to know our

cards."

For the moment, the

accords are limited only to

U.S. treasury bills but may be

expanded to include other

assets, Mr. Yam said.

Malaysian dealers Monday

said the move will help curb

speculation in Asian currencies,

particularly the rupiah and

to a lesser extent the ringgit,

which generated uncertainty

over other emerging-market

currencies.

Mr. Tan said the Indone-

sian and Thai currencies as

well as the Malaysian ringgit

could be open to attack be-

cause of widening current-

account deficits, while the

Hong Kong dollar could suf-

fer from the "1997 effect,"

although it is pegged to the

U.S. dollar and backed by

strong reserves.

Hong Kong's return to

Chinese rule in 1997 has trig-

gered concern about the terri-

tory's future political and

economic stability.

Mr. Tan said repos will

"help to a certain extent" but

will not necessarily deter spe-

culation against vulnerable

currencies. "Such a possibil-

ity will always exist with or

without a pact," he said.

"Ultimately the currency

has to reflect its true market

value," Mr. Tan added.

A Japanese banker in

Hong Kong doubted whether

the repos would be effective

against speculation but said

the agreements "are better

than none at all."

Joseph Yam, chief execu-

tive of the Hong Kong Mon-

etary Authority (HKMA)

said after Monday's signing that the repos will allow the banks to quickly enhance their foreign ex-

change reserves in "times of

need."

He gave no other details,

but said the agreement was

firmed on Monday during the

signing in Hong Kong of repos

between and among Australia,

Hong Kong, Indonesia,

Malaysia and Thailand

Monday.

Governor Singon and his

counterparts agreed that one

way to improve cooperation

among central banks dealing

with volatile capital flows

was the exchange of informa-

tion and liquidity enhance-

ment in the form of bilateral

repurchase agreements be-

tween central banks," the

statement said.

"At least with the repo

agreement, it will not be so

costly for Bank Negara to

intervene when it wants to

support the ringgit and deter

speculators," a dealer with

BSN Bank in Kuala Lumpur

said.

The Malaysian central

bank said the agreement

could enhance monetary

cooperation in the Associa-

tion of Southeast Asian Na-

tions (ASEAN), which

groups Brunei, Indonesia,

Malaysia, the Philippines,

Singapore and Thailand.

The Malaysian central bank

said the agreement could

enhance monetary

cooperation in the Associa-

tion of Southeast Asian Na-

Business & Finance

Arab Gulf states report rise in joint-stock firms

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Joint-stock institutions in six Arab Gulf states have sharply increased over the past decade as more companies have been set up to benefit from government incentives for the private sector, official figures have showed.

From around 250 banks and companies in 1985, the number of joint stock units in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) rose to nearly 300 in 1990 and 343 at the beginning of 1995, according to the Riyadh-based GCC secretariat.

Their paid-up capital stood at \$3.1 billion in 1995 prices, with Saudi Arabia accounting for more than half.

The figures, published in the 1995 corporate guide for the GCC, showed Saudi Arabia had 88 joint-stock banks and companies in 1995, with a capital of \$1.81 billion. Kuwait came second in terms of capital, which stood at \$5.8 billion for 41 joint-stock institutions.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has 76 institutions with a capital of \$3.4 billion while there are 75 units in Oman with a capital of \$675 million and 43 in Bahrain with \$2.16 billion. Qatar's joint-stock institutions stood at 29 with a capital of \$1.24 billion.

The institutions cover

banking, insurance, real estate, agriculture, industry, trade and services, the report showed.

It gave no figures about their market capitalisation but bankers estimated it at around \$80 billion at the end of 1994.

This compares with less than \$50 billion in 1990 and experts attributed the rise to a steady growth in share prices due to stronger performance by most trading institutions.

The report said 254 institutions trade their shares daily in the GCC bourses, where dealing averages around \$400 million a week.

"Dealing in the GCC stock markets has remained very small compared with world markets. This is because governments have a large shareholding in most trading institutions and theirs do not trade," a stockbroker said.

"Another reason is that foreigners have a limited access to the markets."

Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain allow other citizens to own a limited percentage of the shares while the remaining members still bar foreign investment in their stock markets.

The first three members have official exchanges while Qatar and the UAE are in the process of setting up

floors. Sharedealing in Saudi Arabia is conducted through the most advanced bank network in the Middle East after religious opposition forced it to shut its official exchange

eight years ago.

Dealers said they expected

the number of trading institu-

tions to rise further in the coming years as governments are encouraging the private

sector to create more companies through the introduction of further incentives. This is part of reforms designed to offset the decline in oil prices.

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Arab Clubs Table Tennis Championship

Egypt's Ahli retain women's title

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egypt's Ahli Club Tuesday retained the women's title at the 5th Arab Clubs Table Tennis Championship after overcoming rivals Benzart of Tunisia 3-1 in the final match.

The title was Al Ahli's fourth consecutive crown in the championship they have dominated since 1992. Competitors Al Zamalek came in second on points while Benzart finished third.

Benzart's team, led by Africa's No. 2 Sonia Tweety, put up a big fight and received wide applause from attending fans for their beautiful displays. Al Ahli won the first singles match by Jihan Sayyed 21-6, 21-19 over Afaf Nuwwar. Tunisia's Sonia Tweety won the next singles match 21-15, 21-12 over Basant Othman. The doubles could have been won either way, but Al Ahli had advantage with cool nerves as Tunisia's players committed unforced errors with their service.

Egypt's Rania Jamal and Jihan Sayyed beat Tweety and Nuwwar 21-13, 21-15 to lead 2-1. When the tie was left for the deciding singles match Jihan Sayyed capped her teams victory but not before Sonia Tweety dazzled fans with fantastic returns despite losing 21-16, 21-18.

Jordan Table Tennis Federation (JTTF) Chairman Dr. Ismat Kurdi handed the first place trophy to four time champions Al Ahli while Zamalek took silver and Benzart bronze. Jordan's Amman Club came in fourth, Al Orthodox fifth and Lebanon's Homentmen sixth.

Egyptian clubs to face off in men's final

MEN'S TITLEHOLDERS Al Ahli of Egypt reached the final of the men's competition after overcoming Qatar's Al Ahli 3-0 while compatriots Al Zamalek beat Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli with the same result.

Meanwhile, in matches decided 5-8th places Jordan's Al Jazireh beat compatriots Al Orthodox 3-2 while Lebanon's Al Ma'ni beat Kuwait's Al Jahra' 3-2.

Al Jazireh will now face Al Ma'ni Wednesday for 5th and 6th places while Al Orthodox face Al Jahra' for 7th and 8th.

The men's final will be played today at the Sports Palace at 4 p.m.

Earlier in the day, Al Zamalek had beaten Jordan's Al Orthodox 3-0 while Amman overcame Homentmen 3-1. The Lebanese team's winning match was secured through the tournament's youngest player, 13-year-old Lisa Barikyan, who beat top ranked Ammani Tufaha of Amman Club 21-14, 10-21, 21-17.

Barikyan and her team were congratulated by officials of other delegations and widely applauded for her performance in her first win at an Arab championships.

Barikyan was to receive the tournament's most promising player award by the JTTF in a ceremony Tuesday evening.

Table tennis doyen sees bright future for Lebanon

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Walking around the Sports Palace court these days one is surrounded by table tennis experts: champions of the game or top officials of Arab table tennis.

The Lebanese delegation at the championship includes two officials who have been part of the game for the past fifty years.

Spiro Abu Rjeileh, a guest of the Jordan Table Tennis Federation, has witnessed the development of the game on the Arab and international levels since 1941.

He last represented Lebanon as a player in the 1954 world championship. Since then, he has been an official of the game in 12 international cham-

pionships in his capacity as general secretary of the Lebanese Federation from 1964-1994.

Mr. Abu Rjeileh was also a member of the International Table Tennis Federation between 1957 and 1981 and was awarded the prestigious Golden Award.

"International table tennis has made great strides, whether in technical aspects of the game or the equipment used," Mr. Abu Rjeileh told the Jordan Times. "Table tennis has also become a very popular sport because of television. Matches are now televised live and people are more involved with the game. It is definitely on the right track," he added.

As to the level of Lebanese table tennis, Mr. Abu Rjeileh said it was very much affected by the civil

war which had disrupted all aspects of life. "Sports in general were greatly affected and we lost a generation of excellent athletes. But we are starting all over again. Just give us two years time. We will be back," he asserted.

"We now have a generation of serious young players. They are our hope for the future," he said, citing the example of Lebanon's 13-year-old Lisa Barikyan of the Homentmen Club who displayed the capabilities of a future champion when she beat Jordan's Ammani Tufaha on the final day of the women's competition Tuesday (see separate story).

The president of the Lebanese Federation was his country's champion in 1952 and represented his country in three world championships since the early fifties.

The president of the Lebanese Federation was his country's champion in 1952 and represented his country in three world championships since the early fifties.

Magic still perfect in Magic Kingdom

ORLANDO (R) — There's no place like home for the Orlando Magic, even without injured superstar centre Shaquille O'Neal.

Dennis Scott scored 13 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and Penny Hardaway added 29 points as the Magic held off the Golden State Warriors 101-95 on Monday to raise their record to a perfect 7-0 at the Magic Kingdom this season.

The Magic have now won 14 consecutive regular-season home games, dating to March 3 of last season.

The victory moved Orlando into a tie for first place in the Atlantic Division with the New York Knicks at 8-2.

Chris Mullin led Golden State with 23 points, but he was held scoreless in the fourth quarter as the Warriors lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 0-4 on the road.

Orlando was also forced to do without the services of forward Horace Grant, who suffered a knee injury Saturday in Miami. But their back-court tandem picked up the slack.

Nick Anderson scored 20 points and teamed with Penny Hardaway to outscore Golden State's starting back-court of Tim Hardaway and Latrell Sprewell, 49-8.

Tim Hardaway finished 3-of-15 from the field, including 0-for-7 from three-point range, but did hand out 13 assists.

In addition to poor shooting, the Warriors helped the Magic's cause by committing 23 turnovers that led to 28 points for Orlando.

In Boston, dismal foul shooting by the Celtics helped the Houston Rockets gain their fifth consecutive victory.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 24 points and Clyde Drexler



November 20. The NBA contest was played in the Orlando Arena (Reuters photo).

added 18 to lead the Rockets to a 98-93 win as Boston sank just 2-of-12 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter and hit a miserable 9-of-22 for the game.

Robert Horry chipped in 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for Houston (8-1), which shot 28-of-53 from the line.

"As long as we're close coming down the stretch, we feel good because we have Hakeem to go to," Horry said.

Robert Horry chipped in 16 points and grabbed 15

British officials dismiss Akabusi's allegations

LONDON (R) — Kris Akabusi of Britain, the former European 400 metres hurdle champion, has been accused of "vague innuendo" after claiming that officials had turned a blind eye to top athletes taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Akabusi, who also won an Olympic bronze medal in 1992 and a gold in the 1991 World Championships relay, makes the allegations in a book published this week.

Akabusi said in a television interview on Monday that athletes around the world had deliberately not been tested or had been told in advance that they were going to be.

He mentioned no names apart from Ben Johnson, who was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold in Seoul in 1988 for taking steroids and banned for life in 1992 after another positive test.

"Ben Johnson was an embarrassment for the sport," Akabusi said in the interview with the BBC.

"He got caught, but I'm sure he was not on his own. How others didn't get caught I don't know."

"I didn't cheat, but in my time there were people who were able to say to people in authority or looking after top meetings 'I am capable of breaking a world record but I don't want any form of embarrassment.'

Akabusi questioned whether young athletes should be blamed if they had the opportunity to "live by the same philosophy."

His claims come three weeks after Frank Dick was accused of turning a blind eye to athletes taking steroids while he was Britain's director of coaching.

Dick, who resigned last year after 14 years in the job, has issued a writ for libel and slander against the Sunday Times and former international sprinter Drew McMaster.

Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Athletic Federation said: "I can understand why Kris is doing this — to sell his book."

Graf to play in Australian Open

SYDNEY (R) — World No. 1 Steffi Graf is a definite starter for January's Australian Open, setting the stage for a dream final against Monica Seles at the German to clinch a non-calendar year Grand Slam, organisers said on Tuesday.

Graf missed this year's open with a hamstring injury but came back to win the remaining three Grand Slam events of 1995 — the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

She crowned what she considers the best year of her career with victory over Anke Huber in this week's WTA Tour championships in New York.

Graf's formal entry, along with that of compatriot Huber, America Mary Joe Fernandez and Croatian teenager Iva Majoli, follows the dropping of boycott threats by leading women players over prize money.

Australian Open officials had announced last month that women would not receive the same money as the men next year, with the exception of the finalists.

The row was settled last week after talks between the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and Australian tennis officials in New York.

Seles, whom Graf defeated at Flushing Meadow in the American's comeback

10 tournaments she entered, compiling a 44-2 match record.

Tournament director Paul McNamee said entities were now flooding in from other top women players but officials were especially happy with the entry from Graf.

"We are particularly pleased to have Steffi's formal entry, as she has a legion of fans in Australia," McNamee said.

The two-week open starts at the Flinders Park Tennis Centre on January 15.

Germany's Steffi Graf retained her world number one ranking on Monday following her victory on Sunday in the WTA Tour Championships.

1. Steffi Graf (Ger)	393.25 pts
2. Monica Seles (USA)	points to be decided
3. Conchita Martinez (Spa)	255.60
4. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa)	228.77
5. Kimiko Date (Jpn)	165.13
6. Mary Pierce (Fra)	159.83
7. Magdalena Maleeva (Bul)	149.03
8. Gabriela Sabatini (Arg)	147.52
9. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)	136.66
10. Iva Majoli (Cro)	135.31
11. Anke Huber (Ger)	129.64
12. Jana Novotna (Cze)	125.59
13. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	112.06
14. Brenda Schultz (Ned)	99.94
15. Natasja Zvereva (Blr)	93.70
16. Chanda Rubin (USA)	91.63
17. Martina Hingis (Swi)	70.54
18. Naoko Sawamura (Jpn)	69.21
19. Amy Frazier (USA)	66.17
20. Amanda Coetzer (RSA)	62.28
Lisa Raymond (USA)	59.81

President of Real Madrid Ramon Mendoza waves goodbye at the end of a press conference

Nov. 20. Mendoza announced his resignation after 11 years as president (AFP photo)

Real Madrid president resigns

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid Chairman Ramon Mendoza confirmed he was resigning on Monday after more than 10 years in charge.

"I'm leaving sad but contented," Mendoza, 68, told a news conference after meeting the board of directors.

The club's deputy chairman, Lorenzo Sanz was unanimously elected the new chairman, said Jose Maria Stampa Casas, secretary of the board of directors.

The club would hold a news conference to announce its plans for the future, Stampa Casas added.

Mendoza had announced the date of his departure last Tuesday, although he had previously let it be known that he intended to quit.

He said he was leaving because of internal dissent at the club and denied that he

had been forced out.

"Now I don't care about anything, I'm sick of harassment and of small opportunities," Mendoza said.

"No-one forced me out of anywhere. I left fed up, because sometimes pacifying Real Madrid is like ploughing in the sea, a useless task," he added.

Real Madrid won six league championships, two Spanish cups and two UEFA Cups during Mendoza's rule but the club's persistent financial problems put him under increasing pressure to leave.

The crisis came to a head when Mendoza's accounts were rejected by a meeting of the board last month.

Mendoza said he would dedicate himself to writing a book.

"If I left the club with three

years and four months of my mandate left, I will never again present myself as candidate for the chairmanship of Madrid," Mendoza said. "It defies all logic."

He said the last few days had been hard for him. "I would have liked to leave on tiptoes, because it's been tough for me. You need more courage to abandon power than to take it," he said.

Mendoza added that he had always had a good relationship with the players. "The players have shown me great fondness, I'm convinced that they like me very much," he said.

Real's star striker Raul Gonzalez said Mendoza had given his all for the club.

"He's always behaved very well to me and I have to thank him for it," said Paul. "I wish him luck."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Chen wins weightlifting gold

GUANGZHOU, China (R) — A superb performance in the snatch section enabled Taiwanese Chen Jun-Lien to win the women's 64-kg category event comfortably on Tuesday at the World Weightlifting Championships.

Chen lifted 97.5 kg in the snatch to take a clear lead over her closest rival Hungarian Erzsebet Markus who managed only 92.5 kg. Markus ended sixth overall after strong performances by Bulgaria's Gergana Kirilova, South Korea's Choi Eun-Ja and Greece's Maria Christoforidi in the clean and jerk section.

Tapie immunity lifted

PARIS (R) — The French National Assembly on Tuesday lifted the parliamentary immunity of bankrupt politician Bernard Tapie, parliamentary speaker Philippe Seguin announced. Seguin specified that, under an order approved by an Assembly committee, the former minister could be required to observe bail conditions but could not be held in custody. The decision, which did not require a full parliamentary vote, is in connection with alleged corruption involving funds of his former football club Olympique de Marseille. Marseille judge Pierre Philippon had requested the order. He also asked that Tapie's immunity at the Strasbourg-based European Parliament be lifted to facilitate his inquiries. It is the fourth time Tapie's immunity has been lifted: This has occurred twice placed Manchester United in the league.

Referees reject contract offer

NEW YORK (R) — Representatives of the National Basketball Referees Association have rejected the National Basketball Association's offer for a new contract and refused to put the proposal to a vote of its membership. The union's rejection was in a letter delivered to the NBA offices last Friday. The NBA last Thursday gave the union of the locked-out referees with a proposal the league said offered a 10 per cent increase over five years and gives officials a starting salary of \$85,000, with top-level officials receiving \$261,000 this season.

Aston Villa move up to 3rd

LONDON (R) — In-form

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1995 11

Open

ments she compiled a 44-1 record, directing flooding in front of women players in the entry from

re particularly have Steff's focus, as she has a team in Australia," said. "week open stages Park Tennis January 15. Steff Graf, her world number 1 victory on Sunday, the WTA Tour.

93.25 pts
points to be decided
55.60
28.77
65.13
59.83
49.03
47.52
36.66
35.31
29.64
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12.06
9.94
13.70
11.63
10.54
39.21
56.17
52.28
59.81

DRI

his resignation (AP photo)

designs

d four months of left, I will not present myself as chairman," Mendoza said. "It's il logic."

id the last few days hard for him liked to leave because it's better me. You need to abandon your take it," he said. Mendoza added that always had a good relationship with the players have shown cordness. I'm not hat they like me he said. star striker Riz said Mendoza is all for the club always behaved well and I have him luck."

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contract offer

representatives of referees Association National Basketball Association contract and a vote of its members was in a tie. The election was last Friday. The proposal the league increase over 10% a starting salary of officials receive

up to 3rd
Tommy John
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*Europe set for clash of the titans

PARIS (AFP) — After two months of beating no-hoppers, European Cup favourites Ajax and Juventus face some first-class opponents in Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday night.

This season's Champions League has laid bare the gulf in talent between Europe's elite and the rest, with the British clubs definitely among the best.

Holders Ajax, Amsterdam and Real Madrid have respectively crushed Ferencvaros 5-1 and 6-1, and have comfortably beaten Grasshoppers Zurich in their Group D matches so far.

The Spaniards are hoping for revenge for their 1-0 defeat in Amsterdam, and will doubtless be buoyed by their victory over Spanish title chasers Atletico Madrid in last Saturday's capital derby.

Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal has two men out through injury, Brazilian defender Marcio Santos, who has Achilles tendon trouble, and striker Nordin Wooter, who has a thigh strain.

Though beaten only once so far, two frustrating draws has meant that Dortmund are a full seven points behind Juventus. They should nevertheless qualify for the quarter-finals.

Group A is the most open of the four — just two points separate the top three sides.

Juventus have also got back to their winning ways after a poor run in the Serie A, beating Fiorentina 1-0 on Sunday.

A repeat of the previous 3-1 away victory over Dortmund in Group C would be just the ticket — preserving the Italians' 100 per cent record of four wins in four and giving them another valuable morale boost.

Striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, who missed the game against Fiorentina, remains unavailable through injury.

The bad news for Juventus is that Dortmund are on a roll that has seen them soar to the top of the Bundesliga. They romped home 4-1 against SC Karlsruhe at the weekend and are unbeaten in 11 league matches.

Though beaten only once so far, two frustrating draws has meant that Dortmund are a full seven points behind Juventus. They should nevertheless qualify for the quarter-finals.

Victory for Legia Warsaw against Rosenborg BK would ensure the Poles' follow Spartak into the quarter-finals.

Group A is the most open of the four — just two points separate the top three sides.

Brazil top soccer standings

ZURICH (AFP) — Latest FIFA rankings on Tuesday:

1. Brazil	68.28pts
2. Germany	61.65
3. Spain	61.02
4. Italy	60.53
5. Russia	58.39
6. Norway	57.98
7. Argentina	56.77
8. Denmark	56.26
9. France	56.14
10. Holland	56.00
11. Sweden	55.36
12. Romania	55.14
13. Mexico	55.14
14. Bulgaria	54.47
15. Switzerland	54.25
16. Portugal	54.19
17. Colombia	53.23
18. Czech Republic	52.72
19. USA	51.19
20. England	50.02



Reigning Olympic figure skating champion Sergei Grinkov collapsed and died of a heart attack while lifting his wife, Ekaterina Gordeeva (left), in practice, CBS News reported Nov. 20. The pair perform in the pairs technical programme at the Winter Olympics in Hamar, Norway in this February 13, 1994 file photo (Reuters photo)

Reigning NFL champions crash Miami

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Elvis Grbac threw for a career-high 382 yards and four touchdowns, offsetting a record-tying performance by Dan Marino to lift reigning American football champion San Francisco past Miami 44-20 here Monday.

Jerry Rice and Brent Jones each caught two touchdown passes, but it was Grbac's poise that the difference for the 49ers, who have routed Dallas and Miami after embarrassing losses to superb New Orleans and Carolina.

"I tried to concentrate and go out and play like I did last week," said Grbac, a fill-in for injured starter Steve Young. "Tonight's performance helped me establish that I could put two good performances back-to-back."

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	3	0	223	198
Miami	6	5	0	275	225
Indianapolis	6	5	0	210	210
New England	4	7	0	177	242
NY Jets	2	9	0	163	285

Central Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	277	242
Cincinnati	4	7	0	269	277
Cleveland	4	7	0	201	244
Houston	4	7	0	231	223
Jacksonville	3	8	0	184	250

Western Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	1	0	265	161
Oakland	8	3	0	271	187
Denver	6	5	0	249	201
Seattle	5	6	0	249	273
San Diego	4	7	0	196	238

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Dallas	9	2	0	319	202
Philadelphia	7	4	0	235	248
Washington	3	8	0	227	268
Arizona	3	8	0	171	289
NY Giants	3	8	0	199	246

Central Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	4	0	277	236
Chicago	6	5	0	297	269
Minnesota	6	5	0	262	249
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	175	191
Detroit	5	6	0	260	264

Western Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco	7	4	0	294	160
Atlanta	7	4	0	241	226
St. Louis	6	5	0	201	236
Carolina	5	6	0	202	213
New Orleans	4	7	0	205	252

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

473 Q982 03 653 4A 783

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♦ Pass 1NT Pass

3♦ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A - Partner's jump shift is forcing, so a pass is out of the question. To bid three no trump with a tenace stopper in one minor and only one major is a false preference to three spades, a waiting bid to see what partner does next.

Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4A K982 0K 1074 0A 4S 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♦ Pass 1NT Pass

3♦ Pass 2♦ Pass

7 What do you bid now?

A - You are torn between bidding your scraggly five-card major or showing your excellent stoppers in the minors with a jump to two no trump. However, the auction demands a switch to a suit-oriented contract, so test the waters with two hearts.

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Afghan troops retreat from east Kabul posts

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan government troops lost two key positions east of Kabul to the Taliban militia early Tuesday, as fierce fighting for control of the area entered its sixth day, the defence ministry said here.

"We made a tactical retreat from Chakari and Khurd Kabul — 25 kilometres southeast of the Afghan capital — were originally seized by the Taliban in a major attack on the area late Thursday, but the rebels were pushed out of most of the captured zone in a government counter-offensive on Saturday.

Intense battles have continued for control of hills and military posts overlooking the villages ever since, culminating in Tuesday's state withdrawal from the hamlets. The retreat was the second setback for government in two days.

On Monday, the Islamic rebels overran a strategically important military post near Chakari, which had been seized in heavy fighting on Saturday by state troopers. But despite the latest battlefield reversal, the govern-

ment of President Burhanuddin Rabbani is confident its troops have not lost the fight for the eastern flank of the besieged city.

"The Taliban victory has not brought them significantly closer to Kabul and does not undermine in any major way our imminent plans to drive them back," a defence ministry source said.

"This may be a tactical victory, but strategically the Taliban have still failed in their goal of capturing the eastern defence lines of Kabul, the aim of their offensive last week," he added.

The Taliban, who sprang up from the Koranic schools of Pakistan and southern Afghanistan last year, have vowed to topple Mr. Rabbani's three-year-old government and to install Islamic law across the country.

The religious students aim in launching their attack Thursday was to capture the eastern defences of Kabul in a bid to broaden their month-old siege on the city, which is already hemmed in on three major fronts by the Taliban, defence and military officials have said.

Foreign observers said the rebels probably now hold around four kilometres of the eight kilometres they seized in their initial assault.

although the militia has claimed to hold a far greater area, including a village which still remains under state control, an AFP correspondent saw.

The government and the Taliban continued to trade heavy missile, artillery and rocket fire southeast of Kabul Tuesday, although analysts here said both sides were probably exhausted following five and half days of solid fighting.

Other military sources meanwhile said the government was already preparing another counter-attack to recapture the ground lost on Tuesday.

The defence ministry said that despite the setback for the government, its troops had managed to wrest back control of a key post from the Taliban.

Ten Taliban were killed when state soldiers retook a strategic hill overlooking a valley leading to the new government defence line at the village of Band-i-Ghazi, also 25 kilometres from the capital, it said.

Four government troops were killed and another four wounded in the latest tug-of-war over a few tiny village set among the arid and inhospitable hills of this country wracked by 16 years of war.



Thousands of Egyptians march behind fire engines carrying the coffins of Pakistan's Egyptian-embassy bomb attack victims Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Egypt holds state funeral for blast victims Suspected embassy bombers vow to assassinate Mubarak

CAIRO (Agencies) — As Egypt buried its dead from the attack on its embassy in Pakistan, an Islamic group suspected in the bombing vowed on Tuesday to murder President Hosni Mubarak and three senior ministers.

In a two-page typed statement faxed to an international news agency, the International Justice Group (IJG) condemned "the pharaohs of Egypt" — Mr. Mubarak, Interior Minister Hassan Al Alf, Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif.

It said "death sentences have been passed against them, even if they hang from the curtains of the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine in Mecca, for protection."

Egypt has focused on the IJG as the most likely culprit of three groups which claimed Sunday's suicide bombing of Egypt's embassy in Islamabad, which killed 16 and injured more than 60.

The Egyptian government has sent experts to Pakistan to help in the investigations and has vowed to track down exiled Muslim militants.

Militants already suspect Croatia has secretly extradited to Egypt Jamaa al Qassem, arrested in Zagreb in September. Cairo has remained silent on the affair.

In its fax claiming the embassy attack, the IJG demanded the release of Qassem and of Jamaa's spiritual leader Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, currently imprisoned in the U.S.

Since the failed attempt in June by Jamaa to assassinate Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Egypt has stepped up its contacts with other nations to take back fugitive militant leaders.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Monday: "Harbouring terrorists and their leaders is a problem which must be put to an end."

Egypt has increased its con-

tacts to do so."

It already holds extradition agreements with Pakistan and most Arab countries, including Sudan, which Cairo accuses of harbouring Islamic militants, and other accords are being sought with Turkey and Ethiopia, police officials said.

Al Hayat cited Egyptian security sources saying the IJG was most likely made up of "extremist leaders abroad who agreed to commit attacks to frighten countries from handing over militants on their soil to Egypt."

The sources said Egyptian security had received "information about meetings in European capitals by the militant chiefs, who agreed to attack Egyptian diplomats and embassies" to stop executions.

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The funeral was begun by a special noon prayer at the mosque, led by Egypt's mufti Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi. Mr. Musa, Mr. Alfi and fathers and brothers of the victims in the first row of worshippers.

They were joined by the ambassadors of several Arab and Islamic nations, including the Algerian ambassador to Cairo, along with a large number of Egyptian par-

liamentary and government officials.

The five coffins, blanketed with Egyptian flags and flowers, then set out for their final resting place in a procession carried live on state television.

In Islamabad, more than 20 Egyptians have been questioned by Pakistani authorities in the investigation into the massive car bombing at the Egyptian embassy, sources and reports said Tuesday.

The 20 were either residing in Pakistan or were temporarily in the country to attend religious conventions, they said, adding some had been prevented from leaving the country following Sunday's blast.

The outcome of the interrogations was not known and no arrests were immediately reported, while officials said those cleared in the screening would be released.

Some eight Egyptians were stopped at the Karachi airport and another nine at Lahore on Monday.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said two Egyptians and a Jordanian student at Islamabad's International Islamic University, a suspected focal point for fundamentalists, had been released after interrogations.

At the same time, security men from the U.S. embassy joined Pakistani and Egyptian experts in a search for evidence at the bombed Egyptian embassy in Islamabad on Tuesday.

A Pakistani official said the Americans were inspecting the wrecked mission.

COLUMN

Streisand to produce film about Rabin, Arafat

LOS ANGELES (R) — Barbra Streisand is making a film about slain Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chief Yasser Arafat to run on the showtime cable station next year, the star's publicist said Monday. The film, *Two Hands That Shook The World*, will be produced by Streisand's Barwood Films and Jazbo Productions, the Gutman Associates public relations firm said in a release. It will chronicle the last 50 years of Middle East history and efforts toward peace as told through the lives of Rabin and Arafat. Both Rabin and Arafat had agreed to serve as consultants to the film, and producers said they had been assured this collaboration would still be provided by Arafat and the Rabin family. The screenplay is being written by two-time Academy Award winner Edward Anhalt, and Barbra Streisand will be executive producer. Streisand, who has been a star singer and actress since the 1960s, broadened her career when in 1983 she directed and co-produced the film *Yentl*.

In the film she played a Jewish woman in a turn-of-the-century European village who longs to study the Talmud and so disguises herself as a boy. Traditionally, Talmud study by women was not welcomed. She also directed herself in the widely acclaimed film *Prince Of Tides*, which received several Oscar nominations.

Nureyev's clothes, Paris furnishings auctioned

LONDON (AP) — Fans and collectors snapped up costumes and clothing that belonged to Rudolf Nureyev at Monday's auction of the ballet star's belongings. Bidding was intense at Christie's auction rooms as the late dancer's admirers from around the world bought textiles, theatrical robes, shawls, dresses, kimonos and waistcoats. After the first session on a two-day sale the contents of Nureyev's main Paris home, the sale's running total was more than twice that expected. Nearly 150 items of clothing plus a few pieces of ephemera, fetched £14,500 (\$301,000), against an expected £80,000 (\$124,000). A James Wyeth pencil sketch of Nureyev fetched £4,830 (\$7,500). Tuesday's session is to sell paintings, musical instruments, sculptures, carpets and furniture. These belongings filled Nureyev's Paris apartment at 23 Quai Voltaire, overlooking the Seine. The contents of his New York apartment sold for £5 million (\$7.9 million) at Christie's in New York in January. Nureyev, who died of an AIDS related illness in 1993 at age 54, was considered by many to be the most brilliant male dancer of the century.

Brazilian painting sets record of \$1.4 m.

NEW YORK (R) — A painting that inspired a cultural rebellion in Brazil set a record for artist Tarsila Do Amaral at Christie's auction of Latin art in which more than half of the works were not bought.

The 1928 painting of a misproportioned, rounded and naked asexual figure sold for \$1.4 million, the highest price for any Brazilian painting. It had been a birthday present to her husband, writer Oswald De Andrade, who used it in his manifesto against colonial influence on Brazilian culture. The painting became a symbol of that movement.

Israeli police free two held in killing of Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli police on Tuesday freed two more of the nine people detained in connection with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

"They are under various suspicions which sort of changed as the investigation went on," police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said without elaborating.

He said the two men, Ohad Skornik and Michael Epstein — both 23 — were freed on bail to house arrest until next Monday.

"It is up to the district attorney to make the final determination," Mr. Bar-Chen said.

Last week Avishai Raviv, leader of the shadowy militant Jewish group Eyal, was released on bail. Media reports said he had worked for at least two years as an informer for Israel's Shin Bet secret police.

Assassin Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old religious Jew, said he acted alone when he gunned down Mr. Rabin after a Tel Aviv peace rally in Nov.

4. But police have arrested at least nine people in connection with the case.

The Maariv newspaper said Tuesday that all the Shin Bet bodyguards assigned to Mr. Rabin on the fatal night — at least six — had been suspended from duty. The report could not be immediately confirmed.

Mr. Bar-Chen said Mr. Skornik and Mr. Epstein were ordered not to leave Israel, barred from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and required to report daily to police for two weeks after the end of their house arrest.

Mr. Skornik's lawyer Yaakov Weinrot said his client was also barred from discussing the investigation.

In another development Tuesday, the Israeli army expelled a group of settlers squatting in a mosque close to the West Bank town of Hebron after complaints from Palestinians, military officials said.

The move came after a complaint from a Palestinian police commander in the region. General Hadj Ismail Jaber.

Seminar participants find need for constitutional court

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is in dire need of the establishment of a higher constitutional court that determines the constitutionality of laws and interprets legislations, experts and politicians agreed Monday.

At the end of a three-day conference entitled Democracy — The Rule of Law, experts echoed the importance of a constitutional court for the protection and enhancement of democracy. Although they differed over whether an amendment to the constitution was necessary for the achievement of such an objective, they said the democratic process could not be consolidated without the existence of such a court.

"The Lower House of Parliament could not be considered as a sufficient protector of democracy nor could the judiciary authority alone play this role," said lawyer and human rights activist Asma Khader at the conference organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Foundation. "Parliament, for instance, does not have the right to liquidate opposition leaders and say it is constitutional afterwards."

"A host of decisions are taken in the country that do not pass through courts. We have many exceptions," to the law, she charged.

Adel Sharif, a counsellor at the Higher Constitutional Court in Egypt stressed the importance of the establishment of such a court for the "protection of human rights

and public freedoms" and cited examples from the Egyptian experience.

"In some universities it is not allowed to talk about the constitution. They talk about Israeli, German, French constitutions, but the Jordanian one is a taboo," he said.

Professor of political science at the University of Yarmouk, Amin Mashqabeh was quick to cite what he termed as special circumstances and the transitional phase that prevent Jordan from progressing in the judiciary domain.

"The Jordanian Constitution is being studied in all universities. It is not a taboo," Dr. Mashqabeh said. "We don't say we are a democratic country and we cannot compare ourselves to Germany. We need a long time before we make any progress in the judiciary field."

Deputy Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh said: "The priority of Parliament is to preserve the Constitution and not to change it. I don't consider the Constitution sacred, but this is the time to amend it."

Islamist Deputy Mohamad Oweidah also insisted that the Constitution was not considered sacred for Jordanians but he pointed out that there was a reversal on the democratic process.

"When the issue of amending the Constitution was brought up in Parliament, hell broke loose," Dr. Oweidah said. "The establishment of a constitutional court is a must. We are in a dire need for it."

The German foundation organised a similar seminar two years ago based on the same concept and with the same objectives. While participants and lecturers expressed more zeal and determination vis-a-vis the establishment of a constitutional court in this year's seminar, Mr. Dobsen stressed that they should make a stronger move and eliminate taboos that exist in their minds especially concerning the amendment of the constitution.

"In some universities it is

3 militants stand trial in Egypt

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A long-awaited trial on charges of setting up contacts between the influential Muslim Brotherhood organisation and a Muslim militant group fighting to overthrow the government.

Abdul Wahab Sharafeddin Ayoub, an alleged member of the Brotherhood, is standing trial with Helmi Issam Azzazi and Yasser Tawfiq Al Serri, suspected members of the Vanguards of Conquest.

Prosecutors say Mr. Serri, who is being tried in his absence, faxed anti-government statements from a hideout in London to Mr. Azzazi to distribute in Egypt.

The Vanguards of Conquest, a revival of the militant group Jihad (Holy Struggle) which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, has targeted senior government officials in its battle to overthrow the government and install a strict Islamic state.

The group often faxes statements to international news agencies claiming responsibility for such attacks.

Basic disagreement over "the education subject" has been a primary cause of delay, said the Israeli embassy.

A main fear of some Jordanians was that any cultural agreement that included educational reform would result in what the press has dubbed "rewriting history" which many believe would alter the terms of reference to Jordan's history with Israel.

Cultural agreement with Israel awaiting approval of Cabinet

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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"When we sat with our Israeli counterparts, they had a misconception about article 10 (of the agreement)," fyad Oattan, one of the negotiators told the Jordan Times during a recent interview. The Israelis, he said, wanted an educational reform programme dealing with books, activities, etc.

"That would be a full project on both sides. But there is no reference in the treaty to educational reform," he said.

The only reference to education in the pending agreement is a broad one that calls for the "exchange of scientists, technical personnel or other experts on general or specific aspects such as technical/vocational education and training, plant and animal production, computers in education, information technology, archaeology and bio-technology."

The issue of education, he said, is much broader than that. "The agreement gives both parties a framework for cooperation and exchange — it's mainly about how to exploit human resources of either side," he continued. "The important thing now is to give it content."

If signed by the end of the month, the agreement would come at the pinnacle of a national debate on the issue of normalisation that some segments of society vehemently oppose.